

020078

JPRS-SEA-86-209

2 DECEMBER 1986

Southeast Asia Report

19991018 024

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2 DECEMBER 1986

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AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL PARTY REELECTED IN QUEENSLAND

'Disaster' for ALP

BK020736 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0430 GMT 2 Nov 86

[Text] Queensland voters have reelected Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen and his National Party Government for another 3 years. With 6 seats still in doubt, the Nationals took 46 seats in the 89-seat State Parliament with the Labor Party gaining 27 seats and the Liberals 10. In claiming victory, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen predicted that the result in Queensland would flow across the nation, saying he would begin his (?assault) on Canberra immediately.

He said the Nationals had government despite the odds while there had been a 2-percent swing against the Labor Party. The Queensland premier said he would continue to offer a strong, stable government, and he dismissed the inaccuracies in the opinion pool.

Both the Liberal and Labor Parliamentary leaders have blamed their performances on the Queensland electoral system. The Labor lader, Mr (Wobberton), says the electoral gerrymander made it almost impossible for the ALP [Australian Labor Party] to gain office.

In the election, the Nationals gained 39 percent of the vote, Labor 42 percent, and the Liberal Party 16 percent.

Both the prime minister, Mr Hawke, and federal opposition leader, Mr Howard, have congratulated the National Party on its election victory. Mr Hawke said he was pleased with Labor's election campaign and claimed the ALP had held its ground. However, Mr Howard described the poll result as a disaster for the Labor Party and said it was the only party which could not draw any comfort from the election.

Democrats Allege Gerrymander

BK020738 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0430 GMT 2 Nov 86

[Text] The Queensland election result has been described by the Australian Democrats as a national disgrace and a perversion of democracy. Australian Democrat, Senator Michael Mackline, said the National Party had been assured

of victory last year because of the redistribution and the further entrenchment of the state electoral gerrymander. The National Party looked as though it would secure 53 percent of the seats with only 39 percent of the primary vote.

Senator Mackline said the National Party was well placed to further refine the gerrymander before the next state election. He said yesterday's poll results clearly showed that the only way the gerrymander could ever be beaten was by federal intervention.

Radio Australia's Sydney office says a one-vote one-value bill to dismantle the Queensland and West Australian electoral gerrymanders has already been introduced in federal parliament by Senator Mackline. It is at present the subject of an inquiry by the Federal Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Electoral Reform.

/9599

CSO: 4200/118

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

INCREASE IN INFLATION RATE--There has been a jump in the cost of living with Australia's annual inflation rate rising to 8.9 percent. Figures just released show that in the 3 months to September, the consumer price index [CPI] increased by 2.6 percent--the biggest quarterly rise in 2 years. Increases in the price of petrol and the costs of fresh fruits and vegetables have played a big part in the CPI rise. Today's figures give a national inflation rate well above the federal budget prediction of 8 percent. Nevertheless, the treasurer, Mr Keating, says inflation will go down. [Excerpt] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Oct 86 BK] /9599

CHANGES TO FRINGE BENEFIT TAX--The prime minister, Mr Hawke, has defended his government's amendments to the fringe benefit tax, saying they will be applauded by the average taxpayer. The changes announced yesterday include the removal of the requirement of continuous filling in of car log books, increased concession for remote area housing, and the exemption of minor benefits such as late night taxi fares. Speaking in Adelaide, the prime minister said there had originally been some unintended consequences of the tax. He said the changes eliminated these anomalies while keeping to the principle of taxing noncash income which was previously untaxed. However, the federal opposition, farmers, and business groups had condemned the changes as inadequate. [Excerpt] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0430 GMT 30 Oct 86] /9599

HAWKE CRITICIZES TRADE BARRIERS--The prime minister, Mr Hawke, has launched another strong attack on barriers to free world trade. Speaking at a Trade Law Conference in Canberra, Mr Hawke said international laws on fair trading were being bent, manipulated, and broken, threatening the viability of the world trading system. He said some governments had sacrificed the flow of free trade by increasing domestic price support for commodities and export subsidy programs. The prime minister singled out the European Community and the United States, saying the EC was channeling U.S. \$1,000 million into price support and subsidies for agriculture. However, Mr Hawke said there was now increased retaliation by other countries. He said a growing realization of the futility of trade conflicts appeared to have been the reason to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. Recently, Mr Hawke criticized the agricultural subsidy policies of the European Community and America during a meeting of 14 fair trade nations at Cairns in northern Queensland. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Nov 86] /9599

CSO: 4200/118

LAOS

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT GREETS UNESCO ANNIVERSARY

OW051223 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Text] Vientiane, 5 November (KPL)--The acting president of the Lao PDR, Phoumi Vongvichit, on 3 November sent a message to the director general of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), greeting its 40th founding anniversary.

The message says:

"On behalf of the government of the Lao PDR, the Lao people, and on my own behalf, I would like to express to you my warmest congratulations.

"Throughout its 40 years of existence, UNESCO has always been faithful to its ideal of struggling for peace, safeguarding and promoting the cultural legacy of humankind and promoting scientific and technical progress. Several programmes, plans and operational projects concerning various domains of worldwide importance such as international cooperation as the basis of peace, the campaign of illiteracy eradication, the elimination of colonialism and racism, and the promotion of a new international information order, have given UNESCO rich experiences in promoting culture, science, and techniques for the well-being of all peoples without any distinction."

The message continues:

"By constantly following these aims, UNESCO has become a symbol of confidence in a prosperous future of all progressive and civilized nations. Its prestige has been constantly enhanced in the international arena. However, it is regrettable that some countries are not ready to admit these facts and are trying to downgrade them.

"By following a foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship and socialism, the Lao PDR, as a full member of the organization, firmly supports the role played by UNESCO and is actively continuing to cooperate with it so that the great and noble ideals of humankind such as equality, justice and friendship among peoples may firmly take roots in the spiritual life of humankind, including the Lao people.

"In celebration of UNESCO's founding anniversary, I would like to inform you that the Lao PDR has organised a solemn meeting and other cultural activities in its honour in order to express our people's appreciation of the role and prestige of UNESCO as well as its achievements."

The message finally concludes:

"We wish UNESCO great success in carrying out its noble tasks while approaching the threshold of the 21st Century in an atmosphere of peace, confidence and mutual respect. Please accept, Mr Director General, the assurances of my highest considerations."

/12232

CSO: 4200/114

NEW ZEALAND

FISHERY DIRECTOR LAUDS NEW U.S. DEAL

HK300345 Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 25 Oct 86 p 12

[Text] Major improvements in Pacific Island relations will result from the new tuna fisheries agreement with the United States, according to the director of the Forum Fisheries Agency, Dr Philipp Muller.

"It has also made the bureaucrats and legislators in Washington aware of the Pacific," he said in Honiara yesterday.

"Before this happened we were insignificant and of no consequence as far as the United States was concerned."

He said the deal--settled in Nuku'alofa this week but still to be ratified--still left the door open for Russian involvement because the United States did not secure any exclusive arrangements.

Under the deal, the United States will get a fraction of the total catches available. It can take 4,000 tonnes of fish a vessel and licences will be provided for up to 35 fishing boats.

"We have a huge resource in this region. Scientific estimates say there are 3 million tonnes of standing stock and you can take 20 percent of that a month," said Dr Muller.

Vanuatu was still negotiating a fishing deal with the Soviet Union and there was nothing to stop the Russians taking out the standard fishing licences offered by Papua New Guinea to all foreign fishing licences.

"I think we shall have to wait and see how they do with Vanuatu first before we can tell if the Russians will continue. Kiribati is driving a particularly hard bargain with them at the moment--right to the limits."

He said the Russians lacked the right technique for purse seining.

"Purse seine nets have to go down very fast to the thermocline, into the cold water, so that the tuna cannot escape underneath."

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CSO: 4200/119

NEW ZEALAND

TRADE MINISTER URGES CER EXPANSION TO U.S., CANADA

HK310421 Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 28 Oct 86 p 6

["Weekwatch" column by political correspondent Tony Garnier: "Trading Future Australian Links"]

[Text] An event of capital importance to Australia may soon force New Zealand along another new and challenging path.

The clue comes from Overseas Trade Minister Mike Moore, who disclosed last week that he had been briefed by Canberra on an Australian study on closer economic relations [CER] with the United States.

It was important to know what Australia was doing, he said, "as we don't want to wake up one morning in 10 years' time and find Australia and the United States have made a CER agreement."

He didn't believe it would happen. New Zealand's relations with Australia at the moment were in a strong phase. But New Zealand needed to start preparing new options to secure its trading future, he suggested.

One of the options was to expand CER to include the United States and Canada.

Mr Moore made his comments in his Beehive office while talking over beer and sandwiches, with a few press gallery journalists. The occasion was the release of a pamphlet, "Securing New Zealand's Trading Future," prepared by the Trade and Industry Department. It was the usual dry, old stuff; pages of "where we are," "the future," and an appendix.

The initial reaction was to put it on the pile of hundreds of other handouts that pour out of Wellington's bureaucracy and to categorise the minister's comments as typical Mike Moore enthusiasm.

For months, indeed years, he has urged New Zealanders to adopt a "wider vision of the needs of the region." In 1982, for example, he suggested CER with Australia should be widened to a South Pacific economic community and a Pacific Parliament should be set up as the community's "political father."

Four years on, and the idea has not been advanced one jot.

So what realistic prospect was there of an expanded CER to include the likes of the United States and Canada? To work, both countries would have to remove tariff barriers against us, and there is like sign of either doing that.

But a check with history suggests there may be more to this idea than we yet know about. Ten years ago, who would have thought that New Zealand would have struck a CER treaty with Australia, that trade would have reversed to be in New Zealand's favour, our financiers would be buying large chunks of Aussie real estate, and our business would be tuned to such a pitch the America's Cup was within grasp.

In 1976, the year of genesis for CER, the only public awareness on a treaty looming up was buried in an economic and social planning report, "New Zealand At the Turning Point."

The report, sent to the then Overseas Trade Minister (in his role as National Development Minister) Brian Talboys by committee Chairman Sir Frank Holmes, suggested there was a need to revitalise a practical working partnership across the Tasman. It was hardly headline news.

And, little happened in public until 1979, when Australia's Overseas Trade Minister Doug Anthony and New Zealand's Trade Minister Hugh Templeton disclosed, simultaneously, that both countries were independently examining options for closer economic unions. "It was a gradual exercise. No one should panic," said Mr Templeton.

No one did panic. CER, long hoped for and anticipated by a few enthusiasts, was indefinitely retarded by the jealousy of some and the indifference of others. There were fears that New Zealand would lose sovereignty, that traders would not be able to meet the Australian competition, and calls to draw back from taking such a decisive step.

Relations between New Zealand Australia have never been easy. New Zealand's dealings have always been marked by distrust and reserve. Australians traditionally project an indifference, and transtasman political leaders have traditionally adopted a standoff approach to each other; conservative Olyoake-Menzies, Labour's Kirk-Whitlam, conservatives Muldoon-Fraser, and Labour's Lange-Hawke can hardly be claimed to be political mates. Unlike other Western political neighbours, they do not even have an annual summit. Hawke has not yet found time (inclination?) to visit Wellington.

Yet CER became a treaty in 1982, and the joint communique at a transtasman trade ministers' meeting in Canberra last year emphasised that the agreement was "outward-looking and established a basis from which the closer economic relationship could be further developed to the benefit of both countries and the region."

Since when, Mr Moore said on a number of occasions that he is keen to see it enlarged. "We are putting a major effort into the intellectual concepts of

"beyond CER and our wider Pacific ambitions," he told a Christchurch audience of political scientists and economists recently.

"The questions are: Should New Zealand be looking elsewhere for CER-like trading relationship? If so, should we be examining them jointly with Australia?"

Frankly, yes. Otherwise the agreement with Australia that CER was "outward-looking" becomes meaningless.

Mr Moore admits to having been briefed by the Australians on their study on a CER with the United States but said he had not seen it. Implicit in his remarks was the need for New Zealand to be on its guard.

It was inconceivable for New Zealand to move into a beyond-CER agreement without the Australians; it was conceivable that New Zealand, a junior partner, could be led by the force of circumstances (the will of Canberra?) to join an expanded CER linking the United States of America and Canada.

The United States of America and Canada are considering establishing their own CER agreement, a prospect which should not be seen as a threat, it is claimed in the trade and industry booklet released last week. Rather, the linking together of different CER-like arrangements, Aussie-NZ, Canada-United States of America, was a possible path for securing New Zealand's trading future, it is suggested.

In short, amazing as it may seem, the idea of an expanded CER to include the United States of America and Canada seems to be under serious consideration already. From New Zealand's standpoint, it is an amazing development given the state of defence relations with both countries.

New Zealand is in a defence vacuum at the moment. Our foreign policy has us in an alliance with the United States in conventional terms, but the United States does not accept that.

We are supposedly on the verge of strengthening conventional defence ties with Australia (i.e., submitting to its demands in terms of equipment, training, and in other respect?). But there are large problems with that too, it has recently been claimed.

Australia may be considering a CER-like relationship with the United States of America (and Canada?), but if New Zealand does not soon sort out a consistent world view and foreign policy, it would not surprise to see us forced to submit to Australia's will or retreat, as we did early this century when the chance for a Federation with Australia was offered, back into our Pacific/Polynesian isolation.

The difference with the United States over nuclear policy produced speculation that the United States of America would take trade measures against our access to its market. The speculation seems to have been ill-founded on two counts.

We continue to enjoy access and have never enjoyed a "privileged position" in the U.S. market, as was claimed.

As the trade and industry booklet puts it: "There is no bilateral trade agreement between the two countries. Trade is determined by common acceptance of GATT rights and obligations. Most favoured nation's status is that accorded by any GATT contracting party to all other contracting parties. There is no suggestion that the U.S. administration would take action to discriminate in trade against New Zealand contrary to GATT obligations.

"Currently, it does not give New Zealand exports the benefit of an injury test when U.S. interests lodge benefitting from government subsidies, but that position was foreshadowed several years ago and will be reviewed when New Zealand export incentives not in conformity with the GATT subsidies code have been terminated."

Fair enough. But what happens if and when New Zealand, with Australia, moves into a beyond CER arrangement with the United States of America? At that point, we would have a "privileged position," and be vulnerable to pressures on other foreign policy and defence issues.

Or is that just scare talk? At the very least, some foreign policy scrubbing looks to be needed before New Zealand can seriously entertain expanding its trade links in CER-like arrangements.

And in regard to Australia's intentions, first up we need to know what its study on CER with the United States of America says about the future of CER with New Zealand? Does it have a future?

Or will New Zealand be left alone, as it has since rejecting the Federation 1901, in its distant South Pacific backwater to play the part--which it loves so much--of a mischief-maker and irritant to Australia's bid to exercise an expanded global influence? A visit from Bob Hawke is overdue.

/9599

CSO: 4200/119

NEW ZEALAND

PAPER EXAMINES NEED FOR SINGAPORE BASE

HK290757 Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 23 Oct 86 p 4

[Article by defence reporter Roger Mackey]

[Excerpts] It has been said one of the minor puzzles a visitor from Mars would have to work out had it appeared in the early 1950's was why a small country with a tiny population had the military commitments of a superpower.

With obligations or forces in the Middle East, the Northern Pacific and Southeast Asia, we had a range of attachments and associations that seem difficult for a New Zealander living in the 1980's to grasp.

In the last half of the 1950's also that range narrowed to one more familiar to the modern-day New Zealander. We detached ourselves from Europe and the Middle East, and the Korean conflict had ended.

The focus for our commitment outside the South Pacific--recognised as our most important line of defence--was to be Southeast Asia, an area of newly independent or about-to-be-independent states.

Our battalion in Singapore is the modern residue of this 1950's commitment.

From one point of view this change was a very natural one. The ties of blood and rock-hard economic interest which had seen New Zealand servicemen in action so far from home were either weakening or likely to weaken in the near future. The emotional and economic imperative to take part in conflict quite so far away was declining.

The attachment to Southeast Asia and, in particular, what was to become known as Malaysia was justified under a policy of forward defence. This lacked both the close family tie and, at that time, the economic bonds that had shaped the past deployments.

The reason given, instead, concentrated on the need to play a part in the collective security policies of the Western Alliance and that it was or would very shortly be in our interest if the region was as stable and prosperous as possible.

In a way, forward defence was not new at all. After all, it is difficult, from the perspective of New Zealand, to get much further forward than Europe and the Middle East.

The question in the mid-1950's, of course, was not whether forward defence was a good or bad idea but just how far forward defence should be. This question still dominates New Zealand discussions of conventional defence.

For most of the last decade it has been official policy--stated in the 1978 Defence Review--that our force in Singapore was, like the Middle East commitment of earlier years, rather too far forward than it need be.

Now the forward focus--and this is true of both National and Labour--is wholly and solely on the South Pacific, the region recognised since 1944 as our most direct area of military interest.

From this point of view the Army battalion in Singapore and its support units look a little out of place, not to mention exposed. If risks were assigned to New Zealand's remaining alliances, military attachments, and overseas commitments, Singapore would easily head the list.

This is not the same as saying the battalion is a liability and a danger. The two countries with which we have had most contact in the region, Malaysia and Singapore, have been both stable and prosperous.

In Malaysia that stability and prosperity is partly the result of the earlier military effort by outside nations in which New Zealand played a part. That stability and prosperity has, no doubt, contributed to Singapore's security as well.

Our historical contribution lessens any surprise that might be caused by the Malaysian and Singaporean keenness for the force to remain where it is. But, it still does not explain their attitude entirely.

The rest of the explanation can be found in the Ministry of Defence's briefing papers prepared for their new minister in 1984.

Discussing the 1978 Defense Review and its description of the New Zealand force in Singapore as "anachronistic," the papers referred to comments by the Malaysian prime minister and Singapore minister of defence.

They had, said the briefing papers, "expressed the view that withdrawal would signal a lack of confidence in the region and this would be destabilising."

Their motivation, the ministry told Defence Minister Frank O'Flynn, was the recent evidence of instability in the wider region. Among such evidence was the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea and the growing presence of the USSR in the South China Sea.

The New Zealand force was thus, "a positive demonstration of external support in unsettled circumstances. Singapore and Malaysia also clearly found some comfort in the shadow linkage to the United States provided by the Australian and New Zealand presence in the region."

To the jaundiced eye, this trip-wire function may seem a little like applying to be the canary that falls down dead at the first sign of poison gas in an underground mine.

This is an exaggeration; the danger is real enough but is, at the moment, not high.

(The Five Power Defence Arrangements under which the Singapore force operates obliges the parties--Australia, Malaysia, the UK, Singapore, and New Zealand--to consult in the event of an armed attack that was externally organised or supported "for the purpose of deciding what measures should be taken jointly or separately in relation to such attack or threat.")

It may surprise, however, that when the question of the force in Singapore was raised, the Ministry of Defence was not arguing strongly against such a move.

It would have cost money to bring the battalion home intact and to find a home for them. This cost would have been borne in 1984, however, because withdrawal of the force promised net savings of about 14 million for capital equipment.

The collapse of ANZUS and the probable collapse of many of our ties with Great Britain mean that much of what we did in association with such allies (training, buying equipment, and supplies at favourable rates, exercises and intelligence gathering) will either be done at a higher cost or not done at all.

A rising list of tasks and a cap on defence spending mean the Ministry of Defence and the politicians will be faced with some difficult choices.

The Singapore battalion and its supporting units may be a casualty of that squeeze, foreign policy objectives or no foreign policy objectives.

A sign of this is the consideration being given to the withdrawal of defence attaches from Thailand and Malaysia. The two countries would then be served by an attache based in Singapore.

After Australia our second-largest defence exercise partners are the Malaysians and the Singaporeans. The bulk of these exercises are with the Malaysians.

This week, for example, is the second of a 3-week exercise in Johore State with the Malaysian police field force.

A withdrawal from Singapore might give some net savings to the Ministry of Defence and the Army, but the complications would not end there.

Our closest allies, the Australians, keep an infantry company at Butterworth in Malaysia (they are also on the present exercise in Johore). They have also agreed to station their brand new F18 fighter strike aircraft at Butterworth for a minimum of more than 4 months a year. To some this is an increase in their commitment to the region.

Will they be happy if New Zealand pulls out of Singapore?

Quite apart from the possible disapproval of Australia and the disappointment of ASEAN countries, a pullout would be a less than reassuring signal to both the British (a partner in the Five Power Arrangements) and the United States of America.

As Mr O'Flynn's briefing papers said in 1984: "For its part, without being direct or in any way applying 'pressure' the United States let it be known that although the decision was one for New Zealand alone they, too, would prefer us to stay."

If the Singapore battalion was disbanded it would leave the New Zealand Army with only one regular force battalion for the first time since 1974. Although it might ensure that the Burnham battalion was fully manned, the move would have other--negative--complications.

Opportunities for young infantry officers to lead their own platoons are already restricted. This would make the problem worse. The loss of one battalion would also call into question the size of the Army's officer corps, and its support and command structure. It could, in other words, set off a long chain of unintended consequences.

A single battalion would also cut the flexibility of the Army, reducing the numbers of people and range of skills it might draw on in an emergency. If the emergency was a significant one, any brigade mobilised by New Zealand would have two out of its three battalions made up of territorials rather than the present one of three.

Of our near neighbours, Australia has six regular-force battalions and Fiji has two.

A drop to one battalion might also not please the Australians.

New Zealand is placing considerable stress (in both senses of the word) on our relationship with Australia. Will we be able to carry out our obligations--even in peacetime--to Australia with only one battalion?

In time of conflict would it be politically acceptable for New Zealand's sole battalion to be deployed overseas?

A more specific question--from the Australian point of view--deals with the South Pacific. As the latest of our forward defence perimeters, the South Pacific presents a huge area.

The islands may be small, but the distances that separate them are vast. As New Zealand's triservice exercise in the Cook Islands earlier this year showed, New Zealand has a capability to operate in the area but it is pitched at a very low level.

If that capability fell still further, any role Australia saw us as fulfilling in the South Pacific in a bilateral pact might be called into question.

If a fall in the Army's capability occurred about the same time as a fall in the capability of the Air Force and the Navy and New Zealand remained in a pact with Australia the reaction of the Australians might be even less charitable.

The options then would amount to a loss of independence to Australia or a retreat into complete isolation.

If the latter occurs, New Zealand's forward defence perimeter in the early part of next century may consist of a couple of elderly Army trucks pushed across the road at Paekakariki and a few small arms issued to the crew of Wellington's police launch.

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CSO: 4200/119

NEW ZEALAND

OPPOSITION LEADER WARNS OF RISK TO UK DEFENSE TIES

HK300401 Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 24 Oct 86 p 5

[Article by Wellington staff]

[Text] The leader of the opposition, Mr Bolger, says New Zealand can no longer assume that it will follow Britain in every international dispute.

But he told a press conference yesterday that the Labour Government risked losing all defence co-operation with Britain by its anti-nuclear policy.

The prime minister, Mr Lange, has himself speculated that Britain may cut off training exchanges with New Zealand defence officials because of a clause in the government's anti-nuclear bill which bans New Zealanders from aiding foreign officers who may have control over a nuclear device.

Mr Bolger referred to a cartoon in the NEW ZEALAND HERALD yesterday which quoted the statement by the first Labour prime minister, Michael Joseph Savage, in 1939: "Where Britain goes, we go; where she stands, we stand."

Mr Lange recently appealed to Labour Party supporters for funds in a letter which showed Mr Savage's portrait immediately above that of Mr Lange himself.

Mr Bolger said the cartoon showed the "hypocrisy" of the Lange government in trying to appeal to the memory of Mr Savage at the same time as its defence policy belied what he stood for.

Asked whether he was suggesting that New Zealand should still go wherever Britain went, Mr Bolger replied: "No, I do not believe you can have a universal policy like that."

But he said New Zealand still relied on Britain to state its case for continued access for New Zealand products to the European Community.

"You simply cannot thumb your noses at governments around the world on a variety of important issues and then assume they will come to your help and aid when you call."

Mr Bolger acknowledged that the British had continued to represent New Zealand's view in Europe so far, but he said they had done so without enthusiasm and only because they felt an obligation to do so.

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CSO: 4200/119

NEW ZEALAND

GANDHI VISIT TERMED 'RESOUNDING SUCCESS'

HK290941 Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 20 Oct 86 p 2

[Article by diplomatic reporter Karen Brown]

[Text] Few official visits to this country could have gone better than the one by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi which ended early yesterday.

There was an almost audible sigh of relief among the rather tired-looking New Zealand officials as members of the large Indian delegation were delivered safety to Auckland International Airport and took off in their Air India jet for Thailand shortly after midnight Saturday.

The whirlwind, high-security, 56-hour New Zealand visit by Mr Gandhi and his wife Sonia was over, and it was a resounding success.

Most pleased about the way things went was Prime Minister David Lange, who seemed to be on a high from the start of the visit on Thursday evening.

While the styles of the two leaders were utterly different, there was no doubt about the fact that they hit it off and were enjoying themselves. This could also be seen in exchanges between Naomi Lange and Sonia Gandhi who, described by Indians as a private person, declined all requests for interviews in New Zealand.

Speaking to reporters at Turangawaewae Marae, Ngaruawahia, on Saturday, Mr Lange said the visit had gone "better than we could have expected, better than we did expect."

Mr Gandhi, his firm friend for 2 years, had managed to "burst out" of the trappings of such a large official tour and the two men had been able to talk and develop an extraordinarily close rapport, Mr Lange said.

Asked if was [as published] closer to Mr Gandhi than any other world leader, Mr Lange replied: "At the moment, yes."

He put the reason for this down to age (he is, at 44, just 2 years older than Mr Gandhi), the fact that they had met fairly often, and that the Indian leader had "an outlook that is tempered by the same sort of experiences, curiously, as I've had."

Mr Gandhi also indicated he was at home in New Zealand. He appeared to be wearing a bulletproof vest under his jacket, but never appeared anxious about security.

The only time India's leader appeared at all awkward was, in fact, immediately after his address at Turangawaewae.

Mr Gandhi had obviously realised that after a speech, according to Maori custom a waiata (song) was called for. He looked a little worried and said, "At this stage I need a little bit of assistance."

The local Taniwharu cultural group helped out in fine style, which was unlike Mr Lange's experience minutes earlier--his Beehive staff in Wellington sang with him in Maori.

Mr Gandhi delighted those at the Marae, however, with his speech, which included the words tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa (hello).

The Indian prime minister addressed Mr Lange as "David" throughout the trip, and the two had a healthy banter going from the first day.

At a press conference on Friday, for example, questioned by an Indian journalist on their age similarity, Mr Lange said, "That's about the only thing we have in common. I mean, just look at us," he said, referring to the fact that he is bigger than Mr Gandhi.

Later, Mr Lange took obvious pleasure in describing India as the "burrah sahib" (big fellow) and New Zealand as the "chota sahib" (little chap) in the India-New Zealand relationship, and then said this point was demonstrated by himself and Mr Gandhi.

At another point, on the question of the men's similarities, Mr Lange told an Indian journalist that they had also both "married offshore" (Mrs Lange is British-born and Mrs Gandhi Italian by birth).

The only people not laughing during such light-hearted moments during the visit were the team of security men and women who formed an impenetrable, human barrier between the Gandhis and the public.

Security was tightest during the visit at Saturday night's reception held by the Indian High Commissioner to New Zealand Admiral Oscar Dawson, for Mr Gandhi to meet members of the New Zealand Indian community including sikhs.

Guests had to have their bags and purses searched and to walk through a metal-detector device before being admitted.

Even so, the event rapidly turned into a headache for security as the approximately 200 guests, eager to get close to Mr Gandhi, rushed forward and seemed likely to mob him unintentionally. Admiral Dawson pleaded for order.

The reception for the Indian community, some of whom came from as far afield as Wellington and the South Island, was a moving occasion. At the end, guests chanted "Long live Rajiv Gandhi" and sang India's national anthem.

After some prompting from Admiral Dawson, Messers Lange and Gandhi, behaving, it has to be said almost like a couple of lads, agreed on who was to speak first.

When it was his turn to speak, Mr Gandhi addressed the gathering in Hindi. According to the translations of the Indian journalists present, he said it was the first time he had met so many members of an overseas Indian community who had become nationals of the country of their residence.

He congratulated them for having made significant contributions to the development of New Zealand.

In his talks with Mr Lange, he had established an enduring friendship with this country, Mr Gandhi reportedly said. The two leaders had reached a high level of understanding and trade and commerce between India and New Zealand was expected to flourish in the coming months.

In the stories that they filed immediately for the India media, the journalists said a high-level Indian delegation would visit New Zealand soon to follow up the agreements reached in the economic and technological fields. A New Zealand delegation would also visit India with a similar purpose, they wrote.

Mr Gandhi, in his speeches and other comments here, seemed to strike a chord, with his statements about nuclear issues, world trade problems, the importance of focusing on the South Pacific region, and cultural identity.

If India was not able to preserve its inherent spirituality, "I do not think we will actually have progressed, even if we get tremendous economic progress," he told one reception.

"We feel that economic development must be matched equally by human development for Indians," he said to applause.

India is a founding member and leader in the Non-Aligned Movement. Mr Gandhi, at many occasions, outlined what this meant, although neither he nor Mr Lange seemed willing to tackle full, publicly at least, New Zealand's relationship to the movement of mostly developing countries.

Mr Lange did comment that, in his view, there had been a "huge jump" in public attitudes when a prime minister of India could stand in front of an audience of business and society people, as Mr Gandhi did at an Auckland Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon, and talk about non-alignment and get applause.

"That's giddy stuff," said Mr Lange.

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CSO: 4200/119

NEW ZEALAND

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR GREATER PUBLIC DEBATE

HK270752 Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 21 Oct 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Flip/Flops in Our External Policies"]

[Text] As the government's anti-nuclear bill looks set to unpick a vast network of historic relationships, the country's retiring defence chief, Sir Ewan Jamieson, has noted that our society lacks informed, balance, and rational analysis on issues such as defence.

His comments echo the complaints of others that New Zealand, perhaps because of its small population, has been largely without political dialogue about what place it wants in the world.

This lack of debate about how we perceive ourselves may have led to what Sir Ewan describes as our leaping to conclusions and condemning those who have a contrary point of view. And there is little doubt that New Zealand's support for the nuclear-based defence of the West has survived intellectually unchallenged since the Second World War. Those who campaigned against it were largely dismissed as tools of Soviet propaganda.

Although a nuclear presence was, in recent years, contested by groups of demonstrators when American naval ships visited, as many, if not more, New Zealanders opened their homes to visiting American service personnel. Given these conflicting and largely emotional messages, it is little wonder the Labour Party told the electors in 1984 they could have ANZUS and a unique anti-nuclear role too. This was naive but the lack of rational public analysis meant that when New Zealanders were confronted with the cold reaction of the Americans, British, and Australians, they in turn felt let down by their friends.

As we reported last Friday, 17 October, the British have said our defence stance is incompatible with our ties with them.

Now the Australians, too, have apparently asked the latest defence review team to think through the implications of the government's determination to draw closer to them in defence matters.

It is little wonder that the 2-day visit of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was such a success.

Here at last was a world leader, outside the Soviet bloc, prepared to come here and say nothing either disparaging or rude about our defence arrangements.

Yet this visit, too, was another chapter in our uneven policy-making.

Four years ago the high commission in New Delhi was closed down for economic reasons: Whether this was an option suggested first by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or by the then prime minister, Sir Robert Muldoon, may not be clarified until the files are opened more than 20 years from now.

But with a new 7 million dollar complex to be built in Delhi 4 years after there was little if any public resistance to closing down the other one, some evidence can be seen for a mood of uncertainty as to where we are in relation to the rest of the world.

Just as former defence chiefs have warned against the anti-nuclear stance, former high commissioners to India spoke out about closing the office there.

But the voice of experience was lost in the waves of public indifference.

Activists and economists have been allowed to dictate policy-making. Informed debate is difficult in a narrowly-based society such as ours because the relevant officials have a constitutional obligation not to speak out and when they retire it is little wonder, given the polarised nature of political debate, that most of them seem to prefer the quiet life.

Naturally enough most politicians would prefer it this way but defence specialists may now have to confront the obligation to come out of their foxhole and take part in the debate on what sort of country we want to be.

The risk is that if our public debate is left to those without direct experience we could become so isolated from reality that, like some of our endangered birdlife, we would find New Zealand unfitted to deal with the dangers of the ordinary world.

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CSO: 4200/119

PHILIPPINES

COLUMNISTS HIT PALACE STATEMENTS ON U.S. SUPPORT

'Reflect Colonial Mentality'

HK291001 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 29 Oct 86 p 4

["My Cup of Tea" column by Ninez Cacho-Olivares: "Danger Signals"]

~~[Text]~~ A coup d'etat, says Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno, is not at all possible because: a) General Fidel Ramos, in the words of Mr Benigno--"the key man in any attempt to establish military rule in this country"--is on the side of Mrs Aquino and unsupportive of such a move, and b) Mrs Aquino enjoys the "complete and unqualified support of the United States Government, as expressed by, among others, Ambassador Stephen Bosworth, Secretary of State George Shultz, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, and President Reagan himself."

I really don't know how the latest Palace statements grab Filipinos. All I know is that they rub me in the worst way. To me, the statements reflect the colonial mentality and the growing insecurity of Mrs Aquino and her officials. The Filipino people, who successfully toppled a government through people power, are apparently unimportant these days to the Aquino officials.

American support is, as can be gleaned from the importance the Aquino government places on the American Government's support and the backing of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos. The Aquino government's insecurity shows much too much when Mrs Aquino and her boys continue to place so much emphasis on Gen Ramos' support for the president. It also shows that the civilian government is weak, and much too dependent on the military leadership--under General Ramos--for its continued existence.

If the central government thought itself strong and stable, it would not even dream of coming up with statements like these. True, the press secretary uttered these statements, but they were really only echoes of the past statements of Mrs Aquino. The president and her boys seem to forget that it was not America but the Filipino people who fought to topple the Marcos government and install her to power. In her speeches, she spoke of the death of her husband, the evils of the Marcos regime, her strength as president and the bravery of the Filipino people as shown in the 4-day uprising. But today, when talk of a possible coup crops up, she and her officials no longer speak

of the strength and courage of the Filipino people. They speak of American support.

It only shows the extreme naivete of the Aquino government. America's "complete and unqualified support" is elastic. America supports whichever government it believes will serve its interests. If supporting the Aquino government dovetails with American interests, why, America will continue to display publicly its support for this government. America will always serve its interests first and foremost. This was clearly shown in the past. America supported Marcos and dumped him on the 11th hour when it shifted its support to Mrs Aquino. It will dump Mrs Aquino when it becomes evident that American interests are being threatened.

But what is so strange about the Aquino government is that it owes America nothing, and yet it continues to pander to Washington's interests. And it even makes such a big thing about Reagan's public display of support. Good grief! Are we a sovereign and independent nation, or are we still a colony of the United States, with our future utterly dependent on the American Government's decisions and support? Past presidents have always sought American support. I had hoped Mrs Aquino would be different. But she appears to be taking the same path they had taken.

Then she also speaks of the support of General Ramos, forgetting that she, not Ramos, is the president and commander-in-chief.

Why should the Palace stress the importance of Ramos' support for the government? He is, after all, only the chief of staff--an extender, for that matter--and the president does have the power to retire him and appoint another chief of staff. But she doesn't. Instead she gives General Ramos and his support too much importance, both of which lend credence to the earlier statements of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile that a deal involving equal power-sharing among the three was forged during the 4-day uprising. I'm sorry to say I'm extremely disappointed in Mrs Aquino and her Cabinet men. They had talked of making the Armed Forces an apolitical and professional force, but how do they expect to bring these changes if they continue to be dependent on the military leadership for its continued existence and equate the military with Ramos?

General Ramos has been playing his cards right. From practically nowhere, he has emerged as the "key to the future." Perhaps because Mrs Aquino leans too much on him, he has gotten more than what he had bargained for--and all to his favor.

Key officers are being promoted and installed in sensitive areas. And chances are, these officers have the backing of General Ramos. Chances are, loyalty will again be to an individual. He is so powerful and influential that he can even get Mrs Aquino to look over his list of local government appointees whom he feels should be replaced. This is being apolitical and professional? What does the chief of staff have to do with local appointees?

The Aquino government may not know it, but it is committing a big mistake in creating the impression that the key to its continued existence is General Ramos.

But it will realize that if and when the true power play between the military and the Aquino government begins.

Candor 'Provokes Alarm'

HK291423 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 29 Oct 86 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Must the Government Be So Proud of Its Vassalage?"]

[Text] One cannot but appreciate the candor of Palace official Teodoro Benigno when he pointedly reminded Monday the president's critics--presumably led by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile--that a coup in this country at present would not be feasible unless it has the blessings of the Great White Father, Reagan, and his military commanders.

In effect, Mr Benigno was merely confirming something that many perceptive Filipinos have known--and have been saying--all along that all Philippine regimes since the declaration of independence have had to secure blessing from the Americans.

And so, we now get the impression that the Palace wears, like a badge of honor, that stamp of Mr Reagan's approval which says, "Coup-proof"--the guarantee that the masters of intervention will not lift a finger (officially) to encourage any rightist overthrow of the Aquino government.

That was a rather candid and realistic observation, we must say, but at the same time it provokes alarm. That a palace official would make that statement at an official briefing for reporters seems to indicate that this government, like the one before it, would not have any qualms about boasting of the U.S. support it is getting.

In Mr Benigno's view, the Philippine military leaders traditionally look to their American counterparts for signals, a rather logical observation considering recent history.

That the Palace boast of U.S. support comes a few days after American Ambassador Stephen Bosworth's "pivotal role" in the February Revolution was dramatically announced in a tribute to him by the Batanguenos makes the whole thing more disgusting.

Well, Mrs Aquino may have gotten enthusiastic cheers at the U.S. Congress, Mr Reagan may have whispered tempting promises in her ear during her official visit, but that cannot detract from the fact that the Americans, as always, are using the carrot and stick approach on Filipino leaders.

Given Minister Enrile's background and connections, it is hard to see why he would be so determined to test his luck in as shameful a manner as he is doing now, if he is not himself honing to any signals of support. His acts are obviously part of a cleverly designed "shakedown" of the Aquino government, an operation that, sadly, seems to be succeeding.

As always--and Mr Benigno should be aware of this--the Great White Father will profess full support for a willing (?ally but he) will never stack its cards on any one bet.

Demeans Nation, Embarrasses Government

HK301218 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 30 Oct 86 p 4

["Here and Now" column by Francisco S. Tatad: "Minding Out Self-Respect"]

[Text] Press Secretary Teddy Benigno has said in 2 days what will perhaps take us several light years to digest.

First, he said a coup d'etat against Mrs Aquino was unlikely because she, and not any other official, had the complete and unqualified support of the United States.

Second, he said the 27 January plebiscite on the proposed new constitution would be a battle between the pro- and anti-Aquino forces, and that any Cabinet minister who would campaign against it would have no business staying in the Cabinet.

First things first.

If Benigno were still a wire service bureau chief analyzing the prospects of a coup, I would give him good marks for proposing that analysis. And then I'd pray that he is right. But as a presidential spokesman talking about his government, his statement was a disappointment.

Were he talking about the prospect of the country being overrun by external forces, he could have warned the potential aggressor that an attack on the Philippines might be considered an attack on the United States and appropriately met, subject to American "constitutional processes." But he was talking of something purely internal--the constitutional challenge hurled by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and others to Mrs Aquino's government.

The key word here is internal [preceding word in italics]. This means it is purely our affair, nobody else's. The fact that the U.S. ambassador and the spokesman of the State Department in Washington have issued statements to the same effect should have been sufficient. In fact, Malacanang could have quietly asked the U.S. Embassy and State Department to speak more of Mrs Aquino's strong support among Filipinos, and less of her external support. Whether from Manila or from Washington, the statement should have said that

the Filipino people were strongly behind Mrs Aquino and that they would not allow any precipitate change. Unless, of course, they no longer believe it.

My simple point is that it demands the nation and embarrasses its government to have the official spokesman paint the president as someone who will survive the internal challenges to her government only because of the good graces of the United States. Whether or not this happens to be Mrs Aquino's own perception of her government is completely beside the point. This is one case where complete candor is not a virtue and truth is not a defense. As an independent and sovereign nation, we have our pride and self-respect. We must keep an appearance of independence, even if--or especially if--appearance it all is.

Thoughtful Filipinos are insulted enough everytime a statement from the U.S. Congress or an editorial in the American press, no matter how well meant, suggests we behave as Washington wants us to behave. But it is a greater insult when the official spokesman suggests that our country has, for all intents and purposes, become a protectorate, and our president a "pet," of the United States.

Now, the press secretary has also "warned" Cabinet ministers against taking an adverse position on the proposed constitution. This is hard to digest. The president can warn the Cabinet or anybody through the press secretary. But the press secretary does not have the authority to "warn" anybody in the Cabinet, unless they encroach upon his official prerogatives.

Perhaps, this is a case of bad reporting rather than bad spokeswomanship. The fault is probably not the spokesman's, but that of the press. But there is something dangerous and frightening about it. If the president has taken the position that every appointee of hers must campaign for the ratification of the proposed constitution, then Heaven help those who have not developed the taste for it!

What happens to the bureaucracy which previous laws had sought for good reason to prohibit and protect from involvement in partisan activities? Will they not be herded to the precincts to support what Mrs Aquino may later choose to call the fight between "the forces of light against the forces of darkness?"

What happens if someone like Vice-President and Foreign Minister Salvador Laurel decides that out of sheer delicadeza [discretion], he should not campaign for a draft constitution that gives him and Mrs Aquino a term of 6 years and 4 months without going through a new election? Should he and Mrs Aquino not in fact try to keep away from the campaign for that very reason?

If Mrs Aquino were to be consistent with her public moral posture, she should avoid doing anything that would be construed as giving primacy to her self-interest. But are we about to see this?

Mrs Aquino came to power promising not to do what Marcos did to the Constitution or to the nation. She has tried to be different in some

respects. But while no one may accuse Marcos of instrumentalizing his faith, and Mrs Aquino of buying buildings in New York, she seems to regard the Constitution like a secret admirer of Marcos.

Reality of U.S. 'Meddling'

HK301217 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 30 Oct 86 p 9

[Editorial: "Threat of Military Dictatorship"]

[Text] Filipino nationalists have raised umbrage over the remarks of the presidential spokesman, Teodoro Benigno, that it would be hard to topple the Aquino government because it has the full support of the Reagan administration and that the Philippine military is sensitive to signals from Washington.

It is easy to understand the resentment of Filipinos when reminded that the fate of their government rests on the interference of foreign powers. The fact of foreign intervention in internal affairs injures national pride. But Mr Benigno's remarks merely restated a political reality--the vulnerability of our national affairs to U.S. meddling. This reality is rooted in our colonial experience, and its most concrete expression is the existence of the U.S. military bases and extensive American economic interests--both of which have diminished our national sovereignty and autonomy in foreign affairs.

What Mr Benigno is saying is that in assessing the prospects of the survival of the government now under increasing challenge from several sources--not the least of which is that of the defense minister--the dynamics of political reality must not be ignored.

Day after Mr Benigno had spoken [as published], reports from Washington said that the Reagan administration was closely watching Philippine developments and had signalled "strong support" for the government. The reports more or less confirm the thesis that, regardless of whether we like it or not, the U.S. factor is important.

The U.S. factor is especially significant to the military establishment which has traditionally been U.S.-oriented, and has been sustained by American arms aid and whose leaders are sensitive to Washington's preferences.

It is, however, erroneous to assign to the United States the decisive weight in determining the outcome of domestic conflicts. U.S. policy towards the Philippines is essentially opportunistic. The 11th-hour decision by President Reagan to dump the Marcos regime is the most recent illustration of this opportunism, and the Aquino government is ill-advised to interpret the "signals" from Washington as an iron-clad guarantee that it would be bailed out by the United States.

The White House gave Mr Marcos similar signals, but these did not save him from the decision of the people to overthrow the regime--regardless of what bonds Mr Reagan had with Mr Marcos.

To go down to fundamentals, Washington may have a predisposition towards certain political groups or regimes, but when upheavals it cannot prevent take place, it quickly transforms policy and bends with the wind.

The lesson for the Aquino government is that it should go back--and immediately--to its power base, the people, and mobilize them in defense of democracy which will be the first casualty if the government is overthrown. The issue is as basic as that and our people should be aware of this.

Let there be no ifs and buts about this. If this government goes under, there are only two ways in which this nation will go--either a military dictatorship or a communist takeover. At this stage, the threat of a military dictatorship is more imminent than the dictatorship of the Left. This priority must be recognized.

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CSO: 4200/116

PHILIPPINES

MANILA COLUMNIST ON AQUINO'S 'INVISIBLE PRESIDENCY'

HK291031 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 29 Oct 86 p 9

["Analysis" column by Amando Doronila: "Tradition of Presidency is Interventionist"]

[Text] The other day, the Aquino presidency began to answer back its critics within the Cabinet. The counter-attack came about when the president allowed her press secretary, Teodoro Benigno, to speak about her reaction to the criticism voiced by the vice-president, Mr Laurel, of the draft Constitution.

Mr Benigno had been under siege by reporters covering the Palace for reaction to the continuing attack on her overall performance by some of her Cabinet ministers, and all she got from the president was that they be not answered. She had wanted to be above the din of battle, even though she had been the target of the attack, and had come out with a bloodied nose.

Mr Benigno had become impatient about this attitude of see no evil, say no evil, and speak no evil. He had been fed up with being unable to react to questions put by reporters. Moreover, the silence of the president on issues raised by her rebellious ministers had permitted them to gain the initiative and to make her look weak, not to mention silly.

So, the other day, when reporters began to put questions about Mr Laurel's adversary position on the draft Constitution, Mr Benigno badgered the president to comment and she obliged. Now, Benigno, who is very articulate, is in his element.

One of the characteristics of Aquino presidency is that it has the lowest profile in the nation's post-independence history--as if it were always crouching to hide and duck from attacks. All previous presidents had used the presidency as a medium to communicate their policies and to galvanize popular support behind them. Mrs Aquino's is the only invisible presidency we have ever had, and in a time of political volatility, the people need direction and inspiration from the center. In short, they long for leadership.

They are not getting it from her. That's why in the vacuum, other sources of leadership, some of which come from her own cabinet, are emerging to supply what she lacks. She need not be bashful. The presidential speeches are

well-written, concise and short; they are better than the verbose oratory of former President Marcos.

But what is lacking is that the Palace is slow to react, if at all it does. It had allowed its critics to define the issues and the agenda of public debate, and it does not care even to explain its side. No one wins a debate by just keeping quiet--even if the purpose of silence is to cool tensions.

The presidency is a communications platform for crucial policy issues. It is the president's sounding board, and her occupation of the most important office in the land gives her the communications advantage that other politicians do not have. Every little thing the president does and every word she says are news. And yet who is getting all the news?

This communications default is unpardonable. Mountebanks are dying to get their points of view in the media. But here, you have a president who is losing the propaganda war by default because she refused to use the facility of her office to put across her own point of view.

It is too early to say whether the new visibility following the Benigno discourse to the media signals a more articulate presidency. What we are seeing very often is a president who seeks asylum behind the cloisters of the religious sisters when she faces crisis.

She may find strength from prayers which however, do not make her communicate with her people. The tradition of the Philippine presidency is activist and interventionist. The president does not stay above the turbulence like a benign observer indifferent to what's going on below. Institutionally, the presidency is not like a constitutional monarchy whose powers have historically been clipped after centuries of conflict between parliament and the absolute monarch.

Our presidency is a republican institution, which is sensitive to the ebb and flow of events and to the pulse of the people. A presidency that does not follow this tradition cannot hold popular confidence for a long time...

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CSO: 4200/117

PHILIPPINES

CEBU COLUMNISTS ATTACK ENRILE'S STATEMENTS, CREDIBILITY

HK310545 Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 21 Oct 86 pp 4, 9

["Two in One" column by Pampee Barcenas and Jenner Lobedica: "Enrile's Paranoid Claim"]

[Text] Very recently, the effeminate, talkative, conceited, powerhungry perfidious, braggadocio, and demagogue Juan Ponce Enrile stated that if he will quit his post as defense minister from the government of Mrs Cory Aquino, surely, the Philippine Republic disintegrate and finally succumbed to the hands of the communists, that this nation will collapse if he is out of the government. Asa Ka [are you kidding], collapse?

Enrile delivered that funny and paranoid and ridiculous statement during the Marcos Loyalist rally masked as anti-communist rally here in Cebu at Fuente Osmena last Sunday, October 19.

Funny, ridiculous, and paranoid in the sense that according to him, his presence alone in the Aquino government could be the cause that the insurgency problem could be outrightly curbed, if not, diminish in its scope and magnitude.

Demagogue Ferdinand E. Marcos, who happens to be Enrile's boss for 20 years, during his poignant incumbency, let the Filipinos also believe that he alone could steer (and no one else) the ship of our state to the harvest fields of triumph and glory.

But the total reverse is true because by his continuance in office, disaster, chaos, and confusion and hopelessness was the result of his unpopular and sinful regime which was detrimental to the cause of our country and people.

Marcos' techniques and ideas in solving the insurgency problem are presently and pitifully parroted by one of his erstwhile tuta [lapdog] and minion in the person of braggadocio Enrile, dubbed today as the exponent of the "Red Scare" tactic designed to destabilize the Aquino government and to confuse and hoodwink the Americans and the Filipinos, in order to let the former dictator Marcos return to the helm of power, if not, the latter to the installed as dictator once again of our troubled nation.

Enrile's claim is dubious and incredible. How about President Aquino herself and her coterie of public officials?

How about General Fidel V. Ramos considered as West Point graduate?

Are they also not capable of handling the insurgency problem? Only Enrile?

During the long tenure of Enrile as defense minister of this country, insurgency problem rose to unprecedented heights because of his inefficiency in combatting such kind of national dilemma.

The best thing for Enrile to do now is to resign from his present post and consign himself to a sedate and private life, or if not, flew to Hawaii and hug and lick the feet of his ailing former military and political master Ferdinand E. Marcos.

It is a fact that Enrile had already served our government for quite a long period of time and we Filipinos had already tasted his lousy and shabby and corny brand of unsatisfactory service and performance.

The clamor of the hour is to let Enrile step down in order to give way to more young, dynamic, brilliant, efficient, and humane successors.

Down with Communism! Down with Communism! Down with Dictatorship! Down with Militarism! Down with Enrile! Down with Marcos Loyalist! Up with genuine Peace, Freedom, and Democracy! Long live President Cory Aquino--the exponent of Peace, Freedom, Justice, and Democracy!

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CSO: 4200/117

PHILIPPINES

PAPER LINKS RECONCILIATION TO 'PEOPLE POWER' REVERSES

HK031345 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 1 Nov 86 p 9

["On the Contrary" column by Petronilo Bn. Daroy: "The Aftermath of the Reconciliation Policy"]

[Text] To a large extent the conflict between the defense minister and the chief executive derives from the mistaken application of the policy of "reconciliation." It was the appeal for "reconciliation" that put a constraint on the logical pursuit of people's power and, conversely, encouraged the loyalists and the right into testing the will of the new government.

"Reconciliation" was a slogan which Marcos used to temper the protest movement after the Aquino assassination. The concession to that rhetoric was the creation of the Agrava Board. With that as carrot, Marcos dangled the policy of "reconciliation" as a way of stopping the protest movement from further intensifying.

To this transparent gesture, Cardinal Jaime Sin declared that if there must be "reconciliation" in the nation, it cannot be reconciliation in Marcos' terms alone--i.e., that the demands of the protest movement must also be accommodated by the dictatorship.

"Reconciliation," therefore, as a political policy and slogan, was essentially a Marcos gimmick.

Ironically, the slogan was resuscitated not by the Aquino government but by the military. It will be recalled that during the February revolution, the Cory government was not yet in place. Although people's power took command of the radio and television stations through civilian volunteers, direction of the broadcast was provided by Camp Crame.

When it was known that Marcos was about to leave the country, there was first an appeal not to destroy government buildings and property and then, quite predictably, an announcement that buildings and property were being secured and that people's power must be contained.

From this point on, there was but a brief pause before the appeal was transformed into a threat: people's power was being constrained from doing illegal acts. In other words, "the people" now had to be protected from people's power--a very funny turn of logic and semantics.

Almost simultaneously, prayers were said for the deposed dictator, and Cardinal Sin, not be [as published] outdone by the military in goodism, began taking up the appeal for reconciliation.

This misapplication of policy became the fatal flaw of the Revolutionary Government.

"Reconciliation" became the basis for the argument that the nation must start on clean slate, meaning to say, that all criminal acts were to be written off. The sinistral implication of this became evident when the members of the Batasang Pambansa wanted a trade-off: in exchange for their retention as a legislative group, they were willing to nullify the proclamation of Marcos as winner of the snap elections and declare Cory the victor. This had the effect also of nullifying the force of people's power and, instead, tying the legitimacy of the Aquino government to the sanctions structures and rules devised by Marcos. The prospect was blatantly contradictory: the logic would have been to remove from the Cory government any independent legitimacy or mandate and make it hopelessly dependent on the institutions and official bodies of the Marcos government.

The concessions that the Cory government yielded to the loyalists and the right disaffected a number of people. There was a temporary withdrawal on the part of people's power, from further interfering in the new politics. Some sectors even shifted to a critical stance.

It is possible that the resurgence of the "yellow army" and the return of people's power will finally resolve the aborted logic of the EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] revolution.

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CSO: 4200/117

PHILIPPINES

INQUIRER URGES CABINET ENDORSE DRAFT CHARTER

HK291333 Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY INQUIRER in English 29 Oct 86 p 4

[Editorial: "No Middle Ground"]

[Text] Malacanang Monday clearly defined the stand members of the Cabinet must adopt on the draft Constitution--campaign for its ratification. There can be no other interpretation of the plebiscite outcome--approval means endorsement of the Aquino administration; its rejection, loss of confidence.

Members of the president's official family are co-responsible for the government and its fate. A cabinet minister must either support the draft charter or, if he or she cannot, resign.

Vice President Salvador Laurel, himself, enunciated first the moral basis of the Palace policy when he said non-ratification of the proposed Constitution will mean rejection of the Aquino government by the Filipino people. Strangely, Laurel's UNIDO [United Nationalist Democratic Organization] during its last top level meeting, opted to "study" the draft charter before adopting a position.

The Constitution, however, is more than just a partisan document. It is the key to political stability. From the very start, the Aquino government has consistently accented it as the linchpin of a return to constitutional government and political normalcy.

In so far as the ratification of the draft Constitution is concerned, cabinetmen should not equivocate. They must articulate clearly whether they are for it or against approval. And every member should come out immediately with his or her stand. The issue transcends delicadeza. Political morality and consistency are primordial considerations.

Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno aptly termed the plebiscite as the "litmus test" of President Aquino's ability to maintain her centrist position in the face of pressures from both the left and right. The draft charter reflects the hopes and aspirations of the broadest spectrum of the Filipino people for a better and stable future. It must not be the subject of partisan football.

The mechanism for future amendments are contained in the proposed Constitution. This should provide the avenues for rectification of ambiguous provisions and specific objections. The rest were left to the future congress to flesh out.

The Constitutional Commission worked beyond its initial deadline. During the entire period, members of the Cabinet had all the opportunity to present their views or counter-proposals. After all, they were not inhibited from airing their opinions.

However, now that the draft charter is being presented to the electorate for final imprimatur, the members of the Aquino Cabinet are morally bound to spearhead the campaign for its ratification. Those who cannot in conscience endorse it should cut clean and, still freely, campaign against it. There is no room for waffling.

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CSO: 4200/117

PHILIPPINES

COLUMNIST VIEWS LAUREL INCONSISTENCY ON CHARTER

HK041035 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 4 Nov 86 p 4

[*"My Cup of Tea"* column by Ninex Cacho-Olivares: "Wishful Thinking"]

[Text] Vice-President Salvador Laurel was reported to have said sometime last week that "if my conviction tells me to reject the draft constitution, I will campaign against its ratification" and that "nobody can force me to resign. Resignation is up to the person resigning and his reasons behind it." These statements were in reaction to earlier reports which claimed that press secretary Teddy Benigno called for Laurel's resignation as foreign minister should he decide to campaign for the rejection of the draft charter.

From what I gathered so far, the vice-president proposed the inclusion of two questions in the forthcoming plebiscite: If people disapprove of the draft, which of the three constitutions do they prefer? The 1935, 1973, or the Freedom Constitution? And if the people do not approve of Mrs Aquino and himself remaining in office until 1992, do they favor holding an early presidential election? The Aquino boys nixed the Laurel proposals, saying that the government will present the draft charter only in its entirety.

Presidential adviser Rene Saguisag joined the fray when he took on Mr Laurel and debunked his reported contention "that the appointive Constitutional Commission posed a moral issue against the charter."

It will be recalled that even before the snap elections were called, Mr Laurel, in an interview, spoke of a new Constitution that, to him, should be drafted by 50 "wise men." It will also be recalled that his party elders opted for an appointive, instead of an elected Constitutional Commission [Con-Com]. He got what he originally wanted, so why does Mr Laurel now speak of campaigning against the ratification of the draft constitution if his convictions tell him to do so?

Quite frankly, even when he advances some good reasons for the charter's rejection, these just don't come off well, when they are uttered by the vice-president. Perhaps it is mainly because he, more than any other Cabinet minister, pushed for the creation of an appointive constitutional body.

But what bothers me more is the fact that the Aquino government, through its different ministers, has taken the position that Cabinet ministers should resign and officers in charge would be fired if they campaign against the ratification of the charter.

Why is the Aquino government turning the forthcoming issue in the plebiscite into a highly political issue? Rejecting or ratifying a draft constitution should be a strictly non-partisan affair. The Aquino government has no business pushing for the ratification of the draft charter. Strictly speaking, its role is neither to campaign for or against the draft charter but to engage in an exhaustive information program on the pros and cons of the draft constitution so the voter can reach an intelligent decision. If the Aquino government insists on campaigning for the ratification of the charter, it can be presumed that the government machinery will be used to mount an information drive that will be slanted in favor of ratification. But for the Aquino government to do this is to shortchange the nation. The charter, once ratified, will serve as the fundamental law of the land. As such it will affect all aspects of our lives--political, economic, and social. Whether we vote yes or no to the new charter, we owe it to ourselves and our children to make an intelligent and informed decision. But how can the electorate arrive at such a decision if the government insists on taking sides? And how will Mrs Aquino look, campaigning for a charter--drafted by her appointees--that gives her a 6-year term?

But what Mrs Aquino says is that she believes that the coming plebiscite on the new constitution will decide whether Philippine democracy can still work to resolve the insurgency and economic problems. After the constitution is approved, Mrs Aquino was quoted as having said, "People will no longer be talking about instability."

It pains me to point out that talk of instability will continue, whether or not the draft constitution is ratified. The constitution is not the end-all and the be-all. A constitution, in the final analysis, is only a piece of paper, one that can easily be rejected by another revolutionary government.

Almost every time, the nation is told that the draft charter needs to be ratified in order to achieve political stability. But even with a ratified constitution, political stability cannot be achieved if the leadership continues to display weakness and indecisiveness. And neither should the charter be seen as some sort of a solution to the problems of insurgency and the economy.

It is the height of naivete to believe that a new constitution, ratified by the people, will solve the problems of government, of the people and of the country. The sooner the Aquino government realizes this, the better for all of us.

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CSO: 4200/117

PHILIPPINES

LEFTIST GROUPS SAID FUNDED BY AUSTRALIAN GROUPS

HK291353 Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 29 Oct 86 pp 1, 6

[Text] The military disclosed yesterday that three leftist organizations received funds from Australian communist front organizations.

At the same time, the military confirmed an expose made by the National Movement of Freedom and Democracy (NMFD), a Cebu-based anti-communist movement, which claimed that the recent month-long trip of Jose Ma. Sison, alleged former Communist Party of the Philippines (CCP) chairman, to Australia was specifically to solicit funds for local insurgents.

The military said the leftist organizations which received foreign funding were to Task Force Detainees (TFD), which received \$17,000 in 1984 and 1985; the League of Filipino Students (LFS), which was granted \$620 for a training program in Mindanao, and the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (EMJP), which got \$4,650 in 1984 and 1985.

The military said Jun Alcover, NMFD national chairman, identified the funding entity as the Asia Partnership for Human Development (APHD) of Australia.

Sison's Australian visit was allegedly sponsored by the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), the official agency of the Australian bishops, the Community Aid Abroad, the Australian Council of Churches, the Australia-Asia Workers' Link and the Australian Communist Party.

Alcover was also quoted by the military as saying the local communists and their front organizations have been receiving millions of dollars from their Australian connection and have successfully established support groups in the United States, Canada, and Europe through the international liaison officers of the National Democratic Front (NDF), Fr. Luis Jalandoni and a Sister Ledesma.

On the other hand, the military quoted the NEWS WEEKLY, an Australian publication, as saying Sison's visit could only lead to a single conclusion:

"That at a time when the NPA has become so strong as to be able to open up partisan warfare in the environs of Manila itself, an official agency of the Catholic Church in Australia is helping to provide a platform in Australia for the leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines and, thereby, wittingly or unwittingly, supports its objectives."

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CSO: 4200/117

PHILIPPINES

DAILY ANALYZES AQUINO, NDF, AFP APPROACH TO TALKS

HK061328 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 26-29 Oct 86

[26 Oct 86 pp 1, 7]

[Article by Sylvia L. Mayuga--First of a Series]

[Text] "It just wasn't Cory," whispered one of the perfumed Sigma Deltans nervously after President Aquino's "first warlike speech" at the Manila Hotel last Wednesday.

Eight months had gone by, since Joan of Arc became president and commander-in-chief and driven her inaugural crowd at the Club Filipino to gales of appreciative laughter when her first salute to her newly-appointed chief of staff turned into a saucy wave of the hand.

Seven months had passed since she warmed Baguio's mountain air with her "Welcome me, my soldiers" speech at the PMA [Philippines Military Academy] graduation, also the 88th AFP Day.

Six months had passed since the U.P. [University of the Philippines] graduation rites when she first sent out "a message of peace and reconciliation to the Communist-led insurgents" who are widely considered to be "her" soldiers' most formidable adversaries.

Now, almost into the fifth month since her government formally opened peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front], President Cory was letting loose words that sent goose bumps through a ballroomful of her "active non-violence" supporters.

"Even as I speak," she said, "a comprehensive program for the imposition of peace through economic development, social justice, and military action is being fleshed out.

"We must proceed with the energy, the coordination, the unity of a single hand. Now open in the offer of peace but soon to be clenched in a declaration of war."

Any disbelief that President Cory could possibly have really meant that vanished at the subsequent open forum when, in response to a question from the PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER correspondent, she categorically denied that "there had been a shift" in her stance toward the Communist rebels. She added--she had said from the beginning that she would not hesitate to resort to war should her peace efforts fail.

Any day now, promised the president in that open forum, she would announce a deadline for these peace talks, a time frame which would be shortened every time there was an attack on government centers such as the several the NPA's have conducted even after her ascendancy.

"Johnny made her say that," whispered another Sigma Delta matron who, like the first, insists on anonymity, referring to the "cease-talk" of the night before where the president had defused growing public hysteria over loud rumors of a coup to be led by her intransigent Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

Whether or not Johnny had indeed "made her say that" is only one of a series of increasingly interesting life-and-death questions that follow and surround President Cory's second historic speaking engagement to the University of the Philippines' Sigma Delta Phi sorority.

In the days following, this space will raise three questions that range the brief and painful history of these peace talks. These talks began on a note of hope and idealism. Today, they face a hardening rightist reflex in the military, its adherents and supporters both overt and covert.

At this writing, the NDF-CPP-NPA negotiating panel has agreed with its government counterpart to stay away from the media while they bat out a proposal for a ceasefire mechanism "that will work."

This proposal is due on the 31st of October, time enough for the INQUIRER to review the thorny, seemingly impassable road to peace with the Communists.

[27 Oct 86 pp 1, 6]

[Article by Sylvia L. Mayuga--Second in a Series]

[Text] "We will not get rattled," was the reaction of an NDF [National Democratic Front] source to the president's "first warlike speech" at the Manila Hotel last 22 October. "We will continue to work quietly for these talks to continue."

NDF lawyer Arno Sanidad's private opinion is that the president's announcement of an impending deadline for peace talks may have stemmed from lack of awareness of the reasons for delay.

NDF lawyer Romeo Capulong told a lawyer's forum Friday that while there's nothing basically wrong with setting a time frame, problems arise from a

deadline imposed "unilaterally" and "in response to pressure...from someone who has been out to scuttle" these talks from the outset.

A review from the start of negotiations 5 months ago reveals twists and turns that cast ever massing clouds of impatience and doubt over these talks where there had been so much initial hope and goodwill.

One was fortuitous. Government negotiator Jose W. Diokno, well trusted by NDF negotiators Ocampo and Zumel, left, for medical treatment in the United States after 2 weeks of preliminary talks.

The first rude surprise was the sudden, bloody end to a limited regional ceasefire forged with the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]/NPA by Davao del Norte Governor Prospero Amatong and businessman Jesus Ayala.

It was shattered in mid-August, 2 weeks after, when 15 Scout Rangers and 18 others were killed by three NPA land mines in San Vicente town. This was a traumatic experiment to the military.

On 15 September, Mitra and Guingona met with Capulong and Sanidad. The NDF lawyers were prepared to discuss specific points in the NDF proposal submitted 15 August which deal with security and immunity guarantees for NDF negotiators, security forces, technical consultants, volunteer workers, and the lawyers themselves.

To their surprise, Guingona cut short the discussion and announced the government demand for a 30-day ceasefire. This was beyond authority.

The NDF lawyers knew that a rider tacked on to the original proposal would trigger another round of underground debate--a time-consuming process. A new meeting was agreed for 26 September.

This took place in the home of Diokno. Matters like transferable passes for NDF personnel, the validity of such passes in other parts of the country, freedom from court summons for the duration of the talks were discussed.

The next meeting, set for 30 September with the expected attendance of Ocampo and Zumel, promised the possibility of a final agreement on controversial details of the security and immunity guarantees.

The meeting never took place. On 30 September, top CPP leader Rodolfo Salas was captured by Constabulary agents. Capulong and Sanidad twiddled their thumbs at the meeting place. No one showed up from the government panel. Ocampo and Zumel could not be reached.

"It just so happened," said AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] public information officer Brigadier General Luis San Andres about the controversial timing of this arrest. Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo concurred, calling it "coincidental," stressing it was an "ordinary arrest" since "there was no ceasefire as yet."

A phone call got through to Arroyo, the morning of 1 October. A MABINI [Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity, and Nationalism, Inc.] colleague read a section of the Revised Penal Code to Arroyo, stipulating the protection of a citizen from arrest without a warrant.

Arroyo, says a source who was in the Palace at the time, banged the phone on his colleague.

Diokno on the phone to the president, offered to resign as government negotiator, calling the arrest "bad faith."

The president, accompanied by Mitra and Arroyo, prevailed on Diokno to rescind the offer.

At the start of these talks, both sides said, trust is the single most important precondition to any hope for peace. From the events that have transpired, trust seems most fragile, if not the most absent, element in the peace talks.

Capulong narrated how he was followed by two burly motorcyclists from Boni Serrano Avenue, alongside Camp Aguinaldo to Makati. He was then en route to a peace talk-related meeting.

It was another sign of the reasons why the negotiations for peace are like a bridge-building exercise across a steep and murderous abyss, surrounded now by darkness and howling winds of built-in obstacles.

[28 Oct 86 pp 1, 6]

[Article by Sylvia L. Mayuga--Third of a Series]

[Text] "By definition," says recently retired Brigadier General Jose Almonte, "the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA-NDF [National Democratic Front] is a political movement that aims to seize power with a totality of means. To them, the end justifies the means.

"It follows, therefore, that if you offer them peace and reconciliation, they will take that as a chance to further their aims. For so long as that is so, they will never really accept reconciliation with any government, Cory's or anyone else's, on terms other than their own."

Almonte, a leading--if quiet--figure behind the EDSA [Epifinio de Los Santos Avenue] revolt, sums up in textbook style the prevailing AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] view of the leftist insurgency. Give or take personal political reasons and the itch to over speechify in wild headline-making, this is also the spine of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile's defiance of the president's "soft approach" in the peace talks with the NDF.

Here, too, is the root of AFP conventional wisdom, the binding mythology that sends foot soldiers to battle with "CT's" (communist terrorists) and

"ST's" (subversive terrorists), allows the recycled NICA [National Intelligence Coordinating Agency] to resume bugging phones and--not so incidentally--gives the Marcos loyalists a script for their flagging street theater.

Almonte, once a key figure of the Presidential Center for Advanced Studies, hastens to correct any popular misimpression about a fundamental disagreement between the views of Ms Aquino and her defense minister on the nature of the hard Left. The difference, he says, is only in strategy and style.

Believing that the peace talks will fail and "only be taken advantage of by the CPP-NPA," Enrile wants immediate, concerted government action.

The president, as proven by both her U.S. Congress and UN speeches, is not naive about the insurgency. But her strategy--and style--is to exhaust all peaceful means first, a slower process which she hopes will lay a strong moral basis for, if need be, "laying down the olive branch of peace for the sword of war."

Time is ticking by fast for this approach, as the cracks in the president's campaign and victory coalition begin to show.

Meanwhile, military officials describe their view of the reality behind the peace talks:

1. Contrary to its claims, they say, the NDF is not an umbrella for the 12 revolutionary groups under its letter-head. It is actually the CPP that controls all these groups, with the NDF effectively relegated to the status of a "United Front Commission," much like the NPA is a "Military Commission" under the CPP.

This makes the military doubt the authority of Satur Ocampo and Tony Zumel as peace negotiators for the CPP-NPA since they, says Brigadier General Luis San Andres, "do not belong to the CPP top leadership."

(This view seems to have been the reason for the government panel's insistence in specifying that Ocampo and Zumel "represented the NDF-CPP-NPA" and not just "the NDF" in the draft proposal for security and immunity guarantees.)

2. The size of the CPP-NPA armed threat cannot be underestimated, officials say. San Andres says the figure is 14,000 to 15,000, possibly 16,000 by year's end. He adds that they've got this figure down to names, give or take a floating 5,000 for noms de guerre that change with their assignments.

Like many soldiers and a couple of officials, San Andres pays grudging tribute to the courage and cunning of the NPA regular who, he says, is worth 10 soldiers in terms of motivation, mobility and knowledge of terrain.

3. The military is making it a point of honor to resist one of the four NDP demands, the withdrawal of troops from "NDF-controlled" areas. Going by their

commander-in-chief's words in Davao last 23 May 1986, "There will be no ceasefire with return of the troops to the barracks that will leave the insurgents a free zone within which to operate with impunity."

Military figures say that there was a slight decrease in the daily death average of "CT's" while the average for troopers and civilians remained the same since after EDSA. "This," says the AFP command, "is due to the defensive stance of the New AFP."

Given that these figures do not come from the same intelligence source that fed Enrile with that yarn about Sergeant Gan and Captain Causapin's peeled soles at the hands of the NPA, the military has a case. (To be continued)

[29 Oct 86 pp 1, 7]

[Article by Sylvia L. Mayuga--Fourth in a Series]

[Text] "Tingnan naman ninyo," says NDF negotiator Antonio Zumel, "inimbita kami ng gobyernong makipag-usap. Tinanggap namin at pumunta kami sa bahay. Ang sabi sa 'min pagdating--diyan muna kayo sa labas ng bakod."

("Look, the government invited us to talk. We accepted the invitation and arrived at the house. They told us when we got there--wait outside.")

This is Zumel's folksy summing-up of the early stages of the peace talks with the NDF [National Democratic Front]. It is as much as reality as EDSA [Epifinio de los Santos Avenue], the red scare, political prisoners and new films at Victor Corpuz and Kumander Dante, heroes of the hard Left.

Alongside this summation is a confession from Carolina Malay-Ocampo of the NDF that she had looked forward to having Christmas cards this year, talking of ceasefire, at last.

Satur Ocampo says that what the NDF (which, in his book, is the umbrella of the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA wants is "a real ceasefire, not a propaganda ceasefire."

Most of the military sources believe that eventual rapprochement with the CPP-NPA is close to impossible because of years of blood debts. An AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] intelligence operative says: "A large part of the outcome depends on what the people want. It will depend on the struggle of the contending forces as well as the intensity of the involvement of other sectors--church, business, the professionals. There should be consultation with the highest of these sectors on this matter."

The best description for this attitude of the military on the peace talks and the ceasefire is: "bitin" [hanging in the air].

"There is ambiguity among field commanders," says a retired general. "In soldiering, it's either shoot or don't shoot. There are few gray areas. But we also know that military operations alone cannot solve insurgency."

Alongside the social, economic, and military solutions of the insurgency that the president and General Ramos have agreed upon, can there be areas of compromise--even cooperation--between the CPP-NPA and government?

Satur Ocampo says dismantling warlords' private armies might be one such area. "Why not?" says a young PC [Philippine Constabulary] officer. "We can all go down to the basics, with ideology becoming a second-stringer."

What about the struggle over "NDF-controlled" areas called by the military as "rebel infested territory"? This is a serious bone of contention, involving territorial imperatives, a basic instinct.

"Can you really claim that territory belongs to anybody when your objective is people?" asks the young PC officer. "Isn't what is important internal democratic space?"

What about the NDF demand for the dismantling of the CHDF [Civilian Home Defense Forces] as part of a ceasefire agreement?

"Partial dismantling of the CHDF, puede 'yan," says another AFP officer-in-the-know, "those with previous records, especially. As a matter of fact, many are already on the way to being dismantled."

The drift to the Right alarms many as much as the drift to the Left causes tensions. A young officer wishes to remind everyone who had been at EDSA--"The future politics, the future AFP, the future, period, depends on what people would like it to be. What we need is rapport, rapport on matters of mutual interest."

A retired general who was in Vietnam, [in] the United States during the last bases negotiations with Kissinger, Enrile, and Romulo, and in China when the Philippines opened diplomatic ties, and Russia on a psychism mission, comments: "It will all depend on what the people want."

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CSO: 4200/116

PHILIPPINES

CARDINAL SIN SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT PEACE EFFORTS

HK031349 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 2 Nov 86 pp 1, 2

[Article by Ed C. Perpina]

[Text] Manila--Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin has come out in full support of the Aquino government's initiative for negotiation and dialog to solve the insurgency problem.

While acknowledging the right of the state to defend itself even militarily when necessary, Sin said, "I cannot but praise the preference for negotiation and dialog as a primary means of solving the insurgency problem and as being especially in conformity with the Gospel."

In a pastoral letter to be read today in all Catholic churches, Sin also called on Filipinos to reject the twin temptations of liberal capitalism and communism "which, even now, are causing untold miseries to our people."

Instead, he proposed that the Catholic faith should be put into vital practice, as it is our most valuable contribution as Christians for the rebuilding of society.

"Such a faith will move us all to avoid greed, to live simply, and share with the poor; our faith will tell us to shun violence--both the unbloody violence of unjust acts and social structures that result in poverty, deprivation, and death of millions, and the blood violence of arms (used in the name of national security or in terroristic activity) that have taken thousands of Filipino lives," Sin said.

In praising the government initiatives for dialog with the rebels, Sin quoted Pope John Paul II: "That those in conflict undertake and pursue a reflection on motives that compel them to seek by means of force with its consequence of human misery that which could be obtained instead through sincere negotiations and recourse to other means offered by law. [no closing quotes as published]

The Cardinal said he does not intend to prescribe any practical political or economic solutions to the country's problems, but qualified that "as pastor I would be amiss of my duty if I do not seek to convert through the church both the personal and collective conscience of the people."

Despite the changes ushered in by the February revolution, Sin said many people still go jobless and hungry, the majority still live below the poverty line, labor conflicts have not decreased, graft and corruption persist in many government offices, the NPA appears to have grown in strength and aggressiveness and the Mindanao problem continue to defy solution.

"Perhaps we expected the February miracle to continue, but God is now telling us that His work must truly be our own," he exhorted.

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CSO: 4200/117

PHILIPPINES

GEN RAMOS LINKS SUBVERSIVES TO MANILA BOMBINGS

HK300312 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos linked subversive elements to the spate of bombings in Metro Manila the past week, but he said he ruled out the possibility that the bombings could be the start of the urban terrorism drive of the communist New People's Army [NPA] in Metro Manila. He said it could be that the subversives are just testing the military or they are testing their equipment. He added that it could also be possible that they are testing personnel. Ramos said what is important is that the authorities have immediately responded to investigate the bombings. Ramos also said there is now an honest effort by the military and police to catch the perpetrators.

Meantime Alexander Villalon, president of the Youth Action Development Organization, which was linked to the series of bombings in Makati the past few days, said it is a military frame-up. He vehemently denied the military imputation against him, saying that a certain Colonel Ocampo could have cooked up the story. In a press conference he held at his residence in Makati, Villalon said Ocampo charged him with direct assault and illegal possession of firearms on 14 December 1984. In retaliation, he said he also filed charges of arbitrary detention, attempted homicide, and conduct unbecoming an officer with the judge-advocate general's office in Camp Crame. Villalon said the countercharges he filed could have angered Ocampo, who consequently engineered a frame-up. The capital Regional Command, headed by Brigadier General Ramon Montano, also tagged Villalon as the leader of the urban terrorists operating in Metro Manila. He also denied the accusation.

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CSO: 4200/117

PHILIPPINES

COAST GUARD SEIZES JOLO-BOUND EXPLOSIVES

HK291331 Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 29 Oct 86 p 12

[Article by correspondent Vic M. Alvarez]

[Text] Zamboanga City--The 3d Coast Guard District here seized anew some 700 kilos of explosive ingredients ready for shipment to Jolo.

Captain Salvador Peran, district commander, in his report to Commodore Carlito Cunanan, Philippine Coast Guard commandant, said the explosive ingredients were inside 14 sacks on board a Ford Fiera when intercepted by "Task Force Hermosa" at the government wharf here.

The contraband was about to be loaded on a motor launch bound for Jolo.

Capt. Peran told THE MANILA TIMES that the owner of the contraband, Ibboh Gadjali of this city, was arrested for failure to present the necessary papers for the shipment of the 700 kilos of Atlas urea.

In a related development, the Coast Guard detachment in Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi, also seized 40 kilos of explosive ingredients abandoned at Tumindao pier, Sintangkai.

Capt. Peran said the two boxes of imported potassium chloride were believed to have arrived from Sabah, Malaysia and bound for Jolo.

Early this month, the Coast Guard here seized some 1,000 kilos of explosive ingredients bound for Jolo allegedly for use in a terror campaign.

Meanwhile, elements of the Task Force Hermosa confiscated high-powered firearms aboard a motorlaunch docked at the government's wharf in this city.

Capt. Peran said the Coast Guard seized 1 M-16, 1 M-203, and 2 M-1 garand rifles, 180 rounds of M-16 ammunition and 8 rounds of M-203 ammunition.

Peran said the firearms were found on board the m/1 Shella Weina, owned by Hadji Baid of Sulu.

The search was conducted after the task force was tipped off about the shipment.

Peran said the firearms were not covered by documents.

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CSO: 4200/117

PHILIPPINES

DURANO'S PRIVATE ARMY REPORTED STILL OPERATING IN CEBU

Dando Mayor Cites Military Failure

HK310537 Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 23 Oct 86 pp 1, 10

[Text] Danao City Mayor Jovinal Almerdras yesterday said that the private army of the Duranos is intact and has never been dismantled.

Almendras disclosure contradicted the claim of Recom chief, Colonel Edgardo Abenina, that the Duranos do not have an army.

"It is common knowledge that the Duranos have an army and it is now the duty of the military to confiscate the firearms of the Duranos' men," Mayor Almendras said.

According to him, the Duranos have sophisticated firearms and these weapons have not been confiscated yet.

Realizing the difficulty in pin-pointing where the guns are being kept, Almendras suggested that the military should concentrate its effort to locate the places where the "high-powered guns" are placed.

Almendras lamented over what he termed failure of the military to implement President Corazon Aquino's order to confiscate the guns of political warlords in the country, including those of Duranos.

The president issued the order when she visited Cebu a few months after the February Revolution.

The Danao City chief executive also said his administration is not enjoying the support of the barangay captains, adding that the officials remain loyal to the Duranos.

He said despite the cold relationship between his administration and the barangay leaders, nothing has been done adverse against them by his administration.

He said he is doing this in the spirit of reconciliation.

Military Asks 'Complete' Details

HK310531 Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 24 Oct 86 pp 1, 10

[Text] Danao City Mayor Dr Jovenal Almendras was asked yesterday to provide the military complete information on the reported private army of Duranos which the mayor earlier said is still existing.

The request of the military was made through Recom [regional command] 7 Public Information Officer Captain Inocencio Sanchez.

Sanchez said that up to now the military continues it's intensified surveillance on the activities of Duranos, particularly their private army.

The Recom 7 official likewise denied reports that some members of the military are under the payroll of the Duranos.

Earlier, Mayor Almendras reported that the private army of the Duranos is intact and has never been dismantled.

Almendras also lamented over the failure of the military to implement the order of President Corazon Aquino to disarm the armies of political warlords in the country when the president visited Cebu a few days after the revolution.

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CSO: 4200/116

PHILIPPINES

RAMOS STRESSES NEED TO PRESERVE CHAIN OF COMMAND

HK031329 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 1 Nov 86 pp 1, 2

[Article by staff members Lito Mangaser and Cristina Pastor]

[Text] General Fidel V. Ramos, Armed Forces chief of staff, said yesterday it was the military's duty to preserve the government's chain of command in which he and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile were under the commander in chief, President Aquino.

Ramos also told newsmen in Camp Aguinaldo after a morning job [as published] with some 2,000 soldiers that the recent bombings in Metro Manila were the work of subversives not necessarily from the New People's Army.

He also said the NPA's armed city partisans were not a serious threat to Metro Manila, which ran counter to claims by some government and military officials, including Enrile, that the rebels have infiltrated the metropolis.

Later, in a taped television interview, Ramos said he was the one who advised Mrs Aquino to set a deadline for the cease-fire talks with the National Democratic Front (NDF) "to prevent more civilians from getting hurt."

He said he recommended a date for the deadline but would not "preempt" the president by announcing when the deadline would expire.

Ramos avoided taking sides with either Mrs Aquino or Enrile, and instead stressed the need for national unity. "My heart lies with the people," he said.

During the program, he took out three-section color photo which showed Mrs Aquino on top and Enrile and himself sharing the lower section.

Asked who the soldiers would follow in case of conflicting orders from the commander-in-chief and the defense minister, Ramos answered: "We have trained our soldiers that such a situation will not take place."

He said that the recent reconciliation meeting between the president and Enrile, with himself playing the mediator, was a "good beginning but which was not the way things had been reported."

"Huwag natin pagsabungin ang mga tao," [let us not blow up the people], he said.

The peace and order situation, he said, remained unresolved, adding that the country was "not as seaworthy as we would like it to be."

Ramos said government officials should emphasize "togetherness" instead of "spending so much energy wrangling with each other."

He described Mrs Aquino's anti-insurgency program as "very similar, if not identical, to what was worked during the late forties and early fifties" when a communist rebellion was crushed by the government.

Ramos placed the NPA strength at 23,000 guerrillas, with 11,900 firearms mostly seized from government soldiers.

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CSO: 4200/117

PHILIPPINES

COLUMNIST WARNS AGAINST ENDANGERING PLURALISM

HK311055 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 31 Oct 86 p 4

[Column by Renato Constantino: "Pluralism Endangered"]

[Text] During the electoral campaign against Marcos, Mrs Aquino promised a pluralistic society in which the articulation of all ideas would be allowed. In the initial days of her administration hopes were high that the days of suppression and censorship would be over.

Recent events, however, portend a serious constriction of democratic space as the shrill voices of mindless prejudice shout down attempts at a truly free and civilized debate.

In her desire to settle her rift with Minister Enrile, the president has unveiled a harder stance on the question of the insurgency, discomfiting even faithful middle-class Coryistas who had begun to internalize her own pleas for non-violence. The defense minister has escalated his warnings against a communist takeover. This has implanted fear in the minds of many and threatens to drown the voices of honest articulators of change.

At a time when Philippine society is plagued by crisis, at a time when everyone is talking about change, new ideas are being aired. But when the new is immediately equated with subversion and any unorthodox advocacy is labeled as communist, the promise of pluralism is vitiated.

Many Filipinos freeze when they hear the word communist, paralyzed by the fear of the unknown. For conservatives, the communist is the earthly equivalent of Satan pursuing godless ends.

Such a facile description is taken at face value by those who do not care to question. But there are independent-minded Filipinos who are beginning to ask questions. The danger is that in the process of questioning and articulating new ideas, they may be conveniently branded as communists, thus ending all intelligent discussion.

A healthy society is one where diversity is accepted, where free minds are accorded the opportunity to develop. In such a society, various points of

view compete in the marketplace. It is a society where criticism is not equated with treason.

Many sectors of society call for a re-thinking of our problems and of the solutions hitherto offered for them. This is the one welcome consequence of the deteriorating state of our economy, our politics and our culture. It would impoverish us all in a most tragic way if proposals for new analytical frameworks and new solutions which should be the subject of serious dialog are instead immediately aborted by name-calling and their proponents pounced upon as subversives by the self-appointed protectors of the status quo. It is doubly tragic when masses of people victimized by this very status quo become its vociferous defenders.

When the left makes a proposal, conservatives react with alarm because they forget that society is not necessarily called upon to believe in their wisdom. A democratic society is merely called upon to grant these advocates their good intent, nothing more. They must be credited with the same goodwill as the holders of power. They too may be working for the general good.

A historical perspective would certainly help. In the past, the 8-hour day, unemployment compensation, paid vacations and even women's suffrage were "left" causes espoused by the fire-breathing radicals out to destroy society, according to the conservatives of the time. Today, these "causes" are part of conventional wisdom and the name-calling, the political persecution and the physical violence inflicted on the then bearers of subversive ideas is conveniently forgotten even as society benefits from their sacrifices.

To treat today's radicals automatically as mere conspirators out to do evil for its own sake, out to wrest power for the sole pleasure of inflicting harm will return us not only to Marcos' authoritarian regime but further back into a real fascist night.

To respect the good faith of these advocates does not mean to agree with them. We must deal with their arguments on their own merits; we must not discredit them with invective. To call them the enemies of democracy is to behave like the Romans "who condemned the Christians as atheists because they worshipped in a new way."

The escalating tempo of witch hunting and the threat of the president to use the military option has created a tense atmosphere and has activated sectors who strongly feel that a peaceful solution is an urgent necessity. Among these groups is the Progressive Organization of Teachers and Employes for Nationalist Transformation (POTENT).

A recent news item announced a POTENT project which could involve many sectors of the population. POTENT believes that by collecting the signatures of thousands who desire a peaceful solution it can help to make both the Aquino government and the insurgent forces realize that the people want the question settled without the loss of further blood. After all, Aquino acceded to become a candidate on the basis of one million signatures. If POTENT and as

many other patriotic organizations as possible could collect millions of signatures, this would be the best way of making known the sentiment of the majority for a peaceful solution.

It is quite appropriate that POTENT, which is teacher-led, should have thought of this project. Teachers work with the youth of our land who will be the principal victims of civil war or the beneficiaries of peace.

It is of the most urgent importance that the promised pluralism is not aborted by the frenetic anti-communist crusade which now threatens to stifle every type of dissent.

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CSO: 4200/117

PHILIPPINES

ECONOMIC GROUP JOINS FORCES WITH KMU UNION

HK301305 Manila THE MANILA BULLETIN in English 30 Oct 86 p 8

[Text] The National Economic Protectionism Association (NEPA) and the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) [1 May Movement] signed yesterday a joint communique calling for "concrete mechanisms" to ease management-labor problems within a framework of a "basic unity against foreign impositions that adversely affect both sectors."

NEPA President Salvador M. Enriquez, Jr. and KMU Chairman Rolando Olalia signed the communique.

The statement called for:

1. Joint and active opposition to IMF-WB-sponsored policies and programs, including the policy of trade liberalization and an impending peso devaluation that will prejudice the interests of Filipino enterprises and cause further unemployment.
2. The creation of a formal mechanism to maintain industrial peace, particularly in the medium- and small-scale Filipino industries.
3. A policy giving special consideration and protection for such newly established industries.

Enriquez declared that genuine economic recovery should at all times be promised on the achievement of economic independence and sovereignty.

"Dependence on the dictates of foreign policies on our economy will only worsen the plight of the Filipino people, as the last 20 years of Marcos rule has shown," he said.

Olalia said his labor center was prepared to exhaust all means to resolve industrial disputes arising between Filipino businessmen and labor, within the framework of a "policy of maximum restraint."

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PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

FORMER MARCOS 'LAPDOGS' SCORED--There are people around Cory today who have been former Marcos Lapdogs. Is it not true that Minister Mitra was a stooge of the Cojuangcos in the Unicorn [United Coconut Manufacturing Corp.]? Was Macea not a secretary of President Marcos? Did Marcos not rely on Villafuerte? Did Romualdez not bank on Jaime Ongpin and Jaime Fernandez? Is Concepcion not a fair-haired boy of the foreigners? All these new OIC's [officers-in-charge] and directors who were under Marcos should be replaced with people who are truly sincere in serving the Filipino people. If Cory continues with these, there will be no unity because the orientation of these particular officials is not for the Filipinos but for their masters the foreigners and for their own aggrandizement. [Text] [Cebu VISAYAN HERALD in English 21 Oct 86 p 8] /9599

CHANGES IN OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE--The Commission on Elections [Comelec] says it has proposed new changes in the omnibus election code that will govern the general administration of the forthcoming election. Comelec Chairman Ramon Felipe said the poll body has proposed that political parties no longer be represented in the board of inspectors, unlike in previous presidential and vice presidential elections. He said only three teachers will compose the board of inspectors. The proposed changes, he said, are contained in the draft executive order to be signed by President Aquino. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 30 Oct 86] /9599

CSO: 4200/117

OFFICIALS FORESEE TOUGH TALKS WITH U.S. ON TOBACCO

BK070215 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Nov 86 pp 1, 2

[Text] Thai and U.S. officials are gearing up for another serious struggle to break the state tobacco monopoly in Thailand later this month when a U.S. congressional team, which will include Republican Ed Jenkins who authored the controversial Jenkins Bill, visits Bangkok.

The United States views the state tobacco monopoly as an "obvious unfairness" and the U.S. congressional delegation will certainly raise this question in talks with Thai officials here, said an informed U.S. source.

"It makes free trade difficult," the source added.

For several years, Thailand has refused to let foreign cigarette and tobacco firms enter the Thai market.

The Tuesday election saw the Democrats gain control of the U.S. Senate, in addition to the U.S. House of Representatives. This development has brought a new sense of urgency among some Thai officials who are concerned that the Democrat-controlled Congress may try to solve the trade problem with Thailand by itself.

The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok has urged the Thai Government to review its policy regarding the tobacco monopoly.

Several American cigarette and tobacco firms, including Philip Morris, have shown a strong interest in entering into a joint venture with the Thailand Tobacco Monopoly (TTM) to grow high-grade tobacco, produce low nicotine cigarettes for sale in Thailand and for export to neighbouring countries.

The Americans often argue that the monopoly goes against the principles of free trade. It also contradicts the Thai policy of welcoming foreign investment and modern technology.

The Foreign Ministry has shown some understanding to the American argument but it wants the Finance Ministry to make a decision.

The Finance Ministry is reportedly still reviewing the monopoly policy.

The TTM, however, has insisted that it does not want to share its lucrative business with any outsiders.

Some Thai officials have expressed concern that the Congress may put additional pressure on Thailand by threatening to cut Thai interests under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

The United States has shown dissatisfaction with a lack of adequate protection for American intellectual property rights in Thailand. The United States has also complained about high import duties on soybean and cotton in Thailand.

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CSO: 4200/114

THAILAND

PAPER WARNS OF 'PROTECTIONIST CLOUDS' IN U.S.

BK1000038 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Nov 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Protectionist Clouds Gather in United States"]

[Text] Even before last Tuesday's midterm elections, protectionism had already become an ugly word in relations between the United States and the rest of the world. But with the resurgence of the Democratic Party in both Houses of the U.S. Congress, things are expected to get worse. Indeed, the Democrats lost no time in promising swift action on the long-simmering trade issue which is threatening to erupt as the U.S. trade deficit approaches something like \$200,000 million this year. "The number one issue will be trade," says leading Democratic Senator Lloyd Bentsen. "We are looking at an incredible deficit in trade and it's draining wealth from this country and exporting jobs."

There is no doubt that concern exists in Thailand and other countries regarding possible action the United States might take. The American Ambassador to Thailand, William Brown, did not seem to think that the problem was so serious, however. Hoping to allay the fears, he even suggested that the protectionist trend might not continue next year. "I am personally unaware of any single person at this stage who was either elected or defeated on any specific trade or protectionism, fair trade issue," said Mr Brown. The administration's position had been clearly demonstrated and, if it should come to the crunch, Mr Brown is sure that "the president will, as he has in the past, vigorously combat and if necessary veto any blatantly protectionist measure."

Of course we have no doubt that this is what the Reagan Administration intends to do, but it would be better if we can avoid it altogether. The next question is whether veto power alone would be sufficient this time around. But the Congress must be made aware of the consequences of its actions--namely that it would have adverse effects in America itself, as well as in the rest of the world. If America is to close its doors, inflation is certain to paralyse the American economy; its people would be forced to spend more on the basic necessities of life which they can get cheaper from outside. As a result, President Reagan's plan to revive the economic strength of the country would suffer a setback from which recovery would be well-nigh impossible.

Lest it be forgotten, the developing countries of the Asia and Pacific region--and for that matter from the rest world--are not going to sit still. Certainly they have already thought of doing something about the matter and their combined strength, plus that of the so-called newly industrialising countries, is not to be taken lightly should they want to fight back.

Also around the corner and lying in wait is the principal opponent of the United States which has an equal, if not more, purchasing power. With the new thrust in foreign policy that is so evident, it is not beyond the realms of possibility that the Soviet Union would try to fish in troubled waters. Last year when the ominous cloud of the Jenkins Bill was hanging over Thailand, the Soviet Union expressed an interest in buying textiles from this country to make up for the loss which we might suffer from the American market. Fortunately, it was an offer which drew only a lukewarm response from Thailand.

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CSO: 4200/114

TROOPS CLASH WITH REBEL INTRUDERS FROM BURMA

BK070839 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 7 Nov 86 p 32

[Text] Chiang Mai--A Thai Border Patrol Policeman (BPP) was seriously wounded in a fierce gunfight with Wa and Kuomintang intruders at Ban Pang Ton Dua in Mae Ai District last night.

According to a report reaching Chiang Mai this morning, a 300-strong combined force of the Wa National Army and Kuomintang had been attacking a stronghold of drug kingpin Khun Sa on Doi Land and the fighting had spilled over into Thai territory.

The report said the two minority groups began attacking the Shan United Army [SUA] stronghold of Khun Sa on Doi Lang inside Burma from 4 pm yesterday with AK47 rifles, M16s, recoilless guns, M79 grenade launches and mortars but the SUA had put up strong resistance.

Many shells and bullets landed in the Thai village and forced some 100 people to dive for cover. Many of them abandoned their houses for the safety of Mai Ai District town.

Village defence volunteers at the village radioed for help from the BPP base at Mae Ai some 10 kilometres away and about 50 BPP troopers were sent to provide protection to the villagers.

While the BPP was about to enter the village at 7 pm, they ran into an unknown number of the Wa and Kuomintang which had intruded into the village after meeting strong repulse from the SUA.

The intruders opened fire on the BPP and a 30-minute gunfight followed before the foreign troops retreated back into Burma.

Police Lance Corporal Sinchai Pusua was hit in the hip by an M79 shrapnel and was sent to Chiang Mai Provincial Hospital for treatment.

The report said there was no casualty among the villagers.

The BPP and the Third Army this morning sent more reinforcement to the village to monitor the situation as fighting is still continuing at Doi Lang late this morning.

THAILAND

PREM REMARKS ON 'SANCTITY' OF PREMIERSHIP SCORED

BK040317 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Nov 86 p 4

[From the "Bangkokian" column: "Sacred Spot"]

[Text] Now it's out. Premier Prem [Tinsulanon] said it during his informal lunch meeting with newspaper editors last Friday. And it explains a lot of things.

The prime minister said something like "the premiership should be an institution of certain degree of sanctity."

Now we know why he considers himself above politics; why he won't stand for elections; why he won't join any political party.

The point of course is that Pa Prem himself fits the bill perfectly as the occupant of such a position, if we consider the post near-sacred or exalted or inviolate.

Then he continued with "I'm not talking about myself as premier, it doesn't matter who is prime minister but the premiership should be given a proper status."

Obviously, Pa Prem is setting a precedent or an example of how the occupant of the position should conduct himself and how he should treat the position. Premier Prem of course is a tough act to follow. And the next premier might find it almost impossible to measure up to his standard.

By Bangkokian thinks that the premier should expand the concept. Before he goes he ought to see to it that the Cabinet should also be an institution invested with a certain degree of sanctity.

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CSO: 4200/114

THAILAND

SITTHI COMMENTS ON SURAT RESIGNATION

BK070311 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Nov 86 p 3

[Text] Social Action Party [SAP] leader Sitthi Sawetsila yesterday hailed outgoing Commerce Minister Surat Osathanukhro as a "gentleman of high political spirit" for deciding to step down.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi quoted Pol Capt [Police Captain] Surat as telling him: "I sacrifice myself for the government's survival and for our party to continue to work to solve problems for the people."

The SAP leader said he had told Prime Minister Prem Tinsulananon about the resignation. "It is now up to the discretion of the prime minister to take further steps."

Recalling the background to the Surat affair, ACM Sitthi said they met at Don Muang Airport on 11 October as he was returning from the United Nations and Japan and Pol Capt Surat was leaving for Iran.

Since there was little time to talk, ACM Sitthi said he told Pol Capt Surat he would consider his case on his return.

However, political pressure for Pol Capt Surat's resignation mounted while he was in Iran and affected the noconfidence vote in the House of Representatives.

ACM Sitthi said Pol Capt Surat told him on his return from Iran that he wanted to resign immediately after the vote to demonstrate his innocence to save his image.

"This shows the gentlemanliness and high political spirit of Pol Capt Surat in accordance with the democratic system," said ACM Sitthi, who considered the pressure for his resignation unfair.

The Surat issue was discussed in the party and it was agreed the SAP would stay in the coalition and regard the case as "personal" and a matter for the minister's judgment.

ACM Sitthi said the SAP was fully behind Pol Capt Surat in his handling of the timber issue "but attempts and movements to effect political changes had not ceased."

To ease politician [as published] tension and to improve public understanding of the government and for the relief of all parties concerned, he said Pol Cap Surat decided to quit, effective today.

With Pol Cap Surat's exit, ACM Sitthi said he hoped the political situation would improve.

Regarding a successor, ACM Sitthi said he was delegated by the party to make his own choice.

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THAILAND

COLUMNIST ON MILITARY'S 'CLOUT' IN DEMOCRACY

BK041415 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Nov 86 p 4

[Chatchai Yenbamrung commentary: "The Military's Clout in Growth of Democracy"]

[Text] The relieving of General Athit Kamlang-ek from his post as army commander-in-chief last May without any unpleasant aftermath, and the simultaneous appointment of General Chawalit Yongchaiyut to that powerful position, has [as published] brought about a feeling that the future of democracy will be brighter.

Rifts between the government and some military leaders have since been healed and harmony has returned to their relationship.

A case in point is the formation of the Prem V Government in which the military played an indispensable role in the continuance of Gen Prem's tenure.

It is true, however, that Gen Prem's own popularity and mandate from the powers-that-be were also relevant factors.

Civilian leaders like Phichai Rattakun, whose party won an impressive number of seats in the Lower House, realised their shortcomings in comparison to Gen Prem's overwhelming qualifications, and readily accepted the "chosen choice," even at the risk of swallowing their own campaign promises.

None of them had the courage to opt for a second choice, except a few Opposition figures without any hope to be included in the new coalition line-up. One wonders what would have happened had Mr Phichai attempted a fight for premiership. In the event, however, he did not, even though it was a just cause for the leader of the party with the largest number of seats in the House, which was what was said during the campaign.

"Politicians think of their own survival first and last," an MP said recently.

Barely 3 months after the government was formed, the Democrats blew apart what they had so painstakingly achieved before the elections. Mr Phichai's own political career is believed to have been wrecked beyond repair.

The Social Action Party is caught in a political quagmire with the imminent departure of its prominent financier Surat Osathanukro from the Commerce Ministry.

With all the troubles arising from coalition parties, Gen Prem's position appears to be stronger than ever. His increasing confidence to speak out as the government leader has shown that not only has he grown into the job but also that he has things under his control, at least for now.

The surprise comment by Gen Chawalit on the Surat affair led some people to view that as a sign of rift between him and the prime minister. Those around the premier dismissed such a scenario.

They even hinted at the possibility of Gen Prem giving an approval to such a remark by the general. The Prime Minister, asked about Mr Surat's fate at the last week's press conference, merely said he didn't want a confrontation, which was quite clear to all where he stands on the issue. It is also clear that Mr Surat cannot stay on under present circumstances.

Then came a warning from the army chief about the deteriorating political situation after the last general elections and a possible resurgence of the Communist Party of Thailand [CPT]. He specifically said that the CPT is bouncing back and could launch a new round of armed struggle, if the political situation is not corrected. The conditions are there, he said.

The democratic force, he said, has been outdone by the communists and their sympathisers since the elections. He said the government must stress the development of democracy and asked for a higher standard of performance and dedication from the government and coalition parties.

The words were contained in his report to the prime minister during the last week's report on communist suppression at the Supreme Command.

The CPT was nearly extinct in our minds until the Army chief mentioned it. Why he linked the CPT's strength with the recent political development is open to interpretation.

His other interesting point is that the armed forces have lost their credibility by interfering in many areas where they have made little or no progress due to poor planning.

Over a month ago, Gen Chawalit, while pledging support for the parliamentary system, mentioned the "national power" and the "uniformity of ideas" as ways to tackle the country's problems. He said then that a coup was impossible as long as he was around.

At that time, he already warned of the internal threat and conditions conducive to the growth of communism.

These statements raised rather than answered many questions on the general's political scheme. Many people believe that he is being groomed to become Gen Prem's successor under the parliamentary system. Others are fond of talking about the so-called "national government" which could bring about the national power or the uniformity of ideas as he wishes.

Whatever his plan may be, it is always hoped that the power of the democratic force will not be taken too lightly because a disruption of the process could usher in his worst fears--an armed conflict.

EXPORT EARNINGS RISE DURING FIRST 10 MONTHS

BK070253 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Nov 86 p 15

[Text] In the first 10 months of this year, the total value of Thai exports rose by 17.39 percent, while that of imports went down by 6.28 percent, when compared to the same period in 1985, the Business Economics Department reported.

It said that as a direct result of the higher export and lower import values, Thailand's trade deficit during January-October 1986 decreased by 80.54 percent from last year to about 10,000 million baht.

The total value of exports for the whole of this year is expected to be about 225,000 million baht and that of imports about 242,000 million baht, so the total trade deficit is expected to be about 17,500 million baht, 69.73 percent less than last year.

In the first 10 months of this year, the country's exports brought in about 189,300 million baht, 28,036.7 million baht higher than in the first 10 months of 1985.

Thailand major export items were tapioca (up 26.77 percent), ready-made garments (up 32.23 percent), electrical circuit boards (up 59.80 percent), precious stones and jewelry (up 37.89 percent), canned seafood (up 48.85 percent), maize (up 20.52 percent), sugar (up 22.35 percent), shoes (up 33.09 percent) and frozen shrimps (up 26.90 percent).

Particularly notable are the increases in earnings from frozen chicken, raw coffee and frozen squids: 97 percent, 103.99 percent and 71.82 percent, respectively.

The export items whose earnings are expected to drop are rice (down 18.11 percent), tin (down 49.93 percent), liquefied natural gas (down 36.77 percent) and jute products (down 22.18 percent).

Meanwhile, the export prices of many items have dropped considerably, especially those of LNG (down 50.80 percent), tin (down 22.27 percent), maize (down 17.43 percent) and canned pineapple (down 19.56 percent).

The highest increases in export volumes are expected for fishery and industrial products: 33.64 percent and 25.52 percent respectively.

Agricultural exports have managed only a small rise of 4.4 percent, while mineral and fuel exports declined by 42.01 percent.

The total value of imports in the first 10 months of this year was 199,300 million baht, down by 13,357 million baht or 6.28 percent from the same period last year.

This can be explained by the drop in the cost of imported fuel oil whose value fell by 37.53 percent due to a 40 percent decline in its price.

Moreover, imports of vehicles, capital goods, raw materials and semiprocessed goods fell by 13.67 percent, 1.5 percent and 1.36 percent respectively.

The import items which showed large increases were raw tuna for canneries (up 100 percent), while imports of jewelry, diamonds and silver ingot used for producing ornaments rose by 40 percent.

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CSO: 4200/114

THATLAND

BRIEFS

SOVIET NATIONAL DAY GREETED--Thai Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon sent a congratulatory message to chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR on the occasion of the National Day today. In his message, Gen Prem said: On behalf of the government and people of Thailand, I have the honor to convey to your excellency and through you to the people of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics our warmest congratulations and sincere best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of your country and people on the auspicious occasion of the National Day. It is my earnest desire to maintain and further promote the friendly relations between our two countries for mutual benefits. [Text] [Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 7 Oct 86 BK] /12232

JAPANESE AID--Japan has granted a 5,566 million yen aid to Thailand for four projects this year. Notes relating to the grant were exchanged on 21 October in Bangkok. Up to 2,322 million yen will be used for construction of the Thai Cultural Center. About 712 million yen will go to expand an institute of technology. About 621 million yen will be for construction of a national water works technology training center and the remaining about 1,911 million yen will finance the final stage of construction of the Metal Working and Machinery Institute. [Summary] [Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 27 Oct 86 BK] /12232

AIR ACCORD WITH CANADA--Thailand and Canada have reached an aviation agreement allowing two Canadian airlines and Thai International to operate between the two countries over both the Pacific and Atlantic routes. Under the agreement, Thailand will allow two Canadian national flag carriers--Air Canada and Canadian Pacific Airlines--to each operate three flights a week between Thailand and Canada. In return, Thai International will operate three flights a week to Canada each over the Pacific and Atlantic. [Summary] [Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 31 Oct 86 BK] /12232

CANADIAN, FRG AVIATION ACCORDS--After over a year of negotiations, Thailand and Canada have finally reached a full aviation agreement allowing two Canadian airlines and Thai International [THAI] to operate between the two countries over both the Pacific and Atlantic routes. At the same time, Thailand also concluded another air deal with West German aviation authorities for THAI to operate to Dusseldorf on the Bangkok-Stockholm-Dusseldorf route after a breakdown in air talks held earlier this year in West Germany. [Excerpt] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Oct 86 BK] /12232

ASEAN TRADE DOWN--The value of trade between Thailand and five other ASEAN member states registered a decline of 11.6 percent in the first 6 months of this year compared with the same period last year, according to the statistics released by the Board of Trade. It said Thai, ASEAN trade in the first half of 1986 amounted to 34.4 billion baht as against 38.9 billion baht in the same period last year. The decrease was attributed to the decline in Thailand's imports to other countries. In the first half of this year, Thailand's imports from other ASEAN nations were estimated at 18.5 billion baht, a 22.6 percent drop compared with the same period last year. [Text] [Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Nov 86 p 19 BK] /12232

TWO NEW EMBASSIES APPROVED--The Cabinet yesterday approved the establishment of two Thai embassies in Muscat in Oman and at Oslo in Norway during the next fiscal year. The Cabinet agreed that [the] two countries have good relationship with Thailand both politically and economically. The embassies will look after the interests of thai people residing in the two countries and nearby countries as well. The embassies will also help promote economic and trade relations with those countries as well. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 5 Nov 86 p 3 BK] /12232

INSURGENCY IN SOUTH--The Fourth Army Region has successfully cracked down on the activities of communist insurgents and other terrorists in southern provinces. Commander of the Fourth Army Region Lieutenant General Wisit Atkhumwong said the government forces continued to suppress the remaining communist insurgents and had adopted a policy of allowing politics to lead military measures. As a result, he said, a large number of insurgents had given themselves up to the authorities. According to Lt Gen Wisit, only 200 to 250 communist insurgents are currently operating in the south compared to 2,800 to 300 [as heard] previously. The number of other terrorists has also been reduced from 1,900 to only 250 at present. Regarding the Communist Party of Malaya, or CPM, Lt Gen Wisit said the Fourth Army Region has launched a large-scale attack against CPM members since early this month. The operation which began in Yala Province has destroyed nine CPM camps and helped improve the situation in southern provinces. [Text] [Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 11 Nov 86 BK] /12232

FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT PRC--Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila told reporters after a cabinet meeting on Tuesday [4 November] that the agenda for talks during his upcoming visit to the PRC at the end of this month has already been arranged. Included are discussions on various topics, although the Cambodian issue still seems to be the major issue. Asked whether the Sino-Soviet normalization talks will be discussed, Foreign Minister Sitthi said that he will raise the matter. Asked whether he will brief the other ASEAN foreign ministers on details of his talks with the Chinese, he replied that it would not be necessary because the issues to be discussed will be matters of bilateral concern to Thailand and China. Foreign Minister Sitthi stressed that the major purpose of his visit is aimed at promoting countertrade between the two nations. There will also be talks on various joint ventures. Many businessmen from the private sector will accompany the delegation. [Text] [Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese 6 Nov 86 p 4] /9599

CSO: 4205/5

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

HUN SEN RECEIVES SRV DISABLED SOLDIERS MINISTRY DELEGATION

BK071245 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1138 GMT 7 Nov 86

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK 7 November--Kampuchean Premier Hun Sen received in Phnom Penh Wednesday the delegation of the Vietnamese Ministry of Disabled Soldiers and Social Affairs, led by Minister Song Hao, which arrived in Phnom Penh on 30 October for an 8-day friendship visit to Kampuchea.

Premier Hun Sen welcomed the delegation's visit and highly valued the fruitful cooperation between the Vietnamese Ministry of Disabled Soldiers and Social Affairs and the Kampuchean Ministry of War Invalids and Social Action.

For his part, Song Hao, expressed his joy at the great efforts made by the Kampuchean ministry in rendering support and care for the Kampuchean disabled combatants and supportless children left behind by the Pol Pot clique. He said that the Vietnamese side would do its best to help its Kampuchean counterpart between the Vietnamese and Kampuchean parties and governments.

While in Kampuchea, the Vietnamese minister had working sessions with his Kampuchean counterpart, Mam Sabun, and visited places of interest, museums, orphanages in Phnom Penh and provinces, a centre for invalids in Kien Svay, Kandal Province, and the Angkor Wat temple in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

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CSO: 4200/114

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

HENG SAMRIN GREETS ALBANIAN PARTY CONGRESS

BK061437 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1132 GMT 6 Nov 86

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK 6 November--Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, has sent warmest greetings to the Ninth National Congress of the Albanian Party of Labour (APL).

The message reads:

"Over the past 45 years, the Albanian people under the leadership of the Albanian Party of Labour and bringing into full play their tradition of heroic struggle, have surmounted numerous difficulties and made great successes in their socialist construction, thus turning the People's Socialist Republic of Albania into a socialist country with modern industry and agriculture.

"We are firmly convinced that the resolutions of the Ninth APL Congress will lead the Albanian people to new great successes so as to build Albania into a prosperous country and to contribute to the world people's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

"The KPRP and the Kampuchean people express their profound gratitude to the APL and the Albanian people for their fine sentiments and warm support for Kampuchea's just struggle.

"May the ties of friendship and solidarity between the parties, governments and peoples of Kampuchea and Albania further develop and consolidate and the congress of the APL be crowned with great success."

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CSO: 4200/114

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

HENG SAMRIN RECEIVES NEW BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR

BK061441 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1128 GMT 6 Nov 86

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK 6 November--The all-round multiform ties of cooperation and fraternal friendship between Kampuchea and Bulgaria have been incessantly strengthened and developed, noted President Heng Samrin in his meeting in Phnom Penh Wednesday afternoon with new Bulgarian Ambassador Leon Yossifov Beraha who presented his credentials.

The Kampuchean leader warmly welcomed the Bulgarian diplomat and expressed gratitudes to the party, government and people of Bulgaria for their support and assistance to the Kampuchean people in national defence and construction.

He also spoke of the comprehensive achievements scored by the Kampuchean people in the past nearly 8 years and of the steady advance of the Kampuchean revolution. President Heng Samrin pointed to the inevitable failure of the Pol Pot clique in disguise as "Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea" despite the fact that it has been nurtured and backed by the Thai ultra-rightists and other international reactionary forces.

In reply, L. Vossifov Beraha, after hailing the achievements made by the Kampuchean people, reaffirmed the Bulgarian party, government and people's support for the Kampuchean people in their national defence and reconstruction. He pledged to do his best to further promote the fraternal cooperation between the two countries.

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CSO: 4200/114

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

SRV PLANNING DELEGATION LEAVES AFTER WEEK-LONG VISIT

BK071322 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1134 GMT 7 Nov 86

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK 7 November--A delegation of the State Planning Commission of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, left Phnom Penh Thursday morning after a week-long friendship visit to Kampuchea.

The delegation led by Ho Ngoc Nguong, vice chairman of the commission, was seen off at Pochentong Airport by Keo Samut, deputy minister of planning; and other Kampuchean officials, [as well] as by Nguyen Anh Kieu, Vietnamese charge d'affaires a.i. to Kampuchea. While in Kampuchea, the delegation held talks with a Kampuchean delegation led by Chea Chanto, first deputy minister of planning, and was received by Chea Soth, vice premier and minister of planning.

Minutes of economic and cultural cooperation for 1987 between the two countries were also signed. Under the documents the two sides will work out plans to promote cooperation in rubber processing, forest exploitation, the restoration of communications network, geological surveys and in training Kampuchean technicians.

The delegation also visited Chrouy Changva Bridge, which is now under repair with the help from Vietnam, a textile mill in Phnom Penh and the Angkor Wat temple in Siem Reap Province.

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CSO: 4200/114

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

CHEA SIM ATTENDS MEETING ON LAND TILLING

BK110950 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1116 GMT 10 Nov 86

[Text]. Phnom Penh, SPK, 10 November--The Kampuchea Federation of Trade Unions and the Ministry of Agriculture have jointly organized in Phnom Penh a meeting to review the work of mechanical ploughing in 1986 in the presence of Chea Sim, Politburo member of the Peoples Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland.

In the 2-day meeting from 6-7 November the participants exchanged their experiences in ploughing in the main cropping season (monsoon) by tractors done by 45 units and individuals. Addressing the meeting, Chairman Chea Sim highly appreciated the success recorded in 1986, the 1st year of the implementation of the First 5-Year Programme of socio-economic rehabilitation and development (1986-1990). He also praised in particular the efforts made by the tractor operators and cadres of services concerned. He laid stress in new tasks for 1987.

He said: In spite of many difficulties brought about by unfavourable weather, the lack of raw materials and equipment and by enemies sabotage activities, the four spearheads of the national economy have been developed resulting in remarkable changes in the country: food, industrial crop, rubber production, exportation, communications and transport, etc. have been stepped up as compared with previous years.

Chea Sim also urged the trade union organizations of all levels to closely cooperate with the administration so as to step up production and to create favourable conditions for farmers.

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CSO: 4200/114

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

BRIEFS

PALESTINIAN FRONT DELEGATION ARRIVES--Phnom Penh SPK 4 November--A delegation of the Democratic Front of the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) led by Yasser Abed Rabbo, Politburo member and assistant secretary-general of the DFLP arrived here yesterday for a 4-day official friendship visit to Kampuchea. The delegation was warmly greeted on its arrival by Prach Sun, vice president of the Commission for External Relations of the People's Revolutionary Party Kampuchea Central Committee; and other Kampuchean officials. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1057 GMT 4 Nov 86 BK] /12232

SRV PLANNING DELEGATION RECEIVED--Phnom Penh SPK 6 November--Chea Soth, vice premier and minister of planning, has cordially received in Phnom Penh a visiting delegation [of] the Vietnamese State Committee for Planning led by Vice Chairman Ha Ngoc Nguong. Chea Soth, also Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, appreciated the fruitful relations and multiform cooperation between Kampuchea and Vietnam, he pointed to the mutual benefits brought about by flourishing ties of cooperation between the two governments and peoples, remarkably in good exchanges which were carried out in furtherance of the Kampuchean-Vietnamese economic cooperation agreement. Referring to the cooperation in forestry he said that joint efforts should be made in vegetal protection, working out measures against noxious insects, in epiphytical elimination and afforestation. In reply, Ha Ngoc Nguong shared the Kampuchean official's view and pledged to do all he could to promote the mutual interests of Vietnam and Kampuchea. The Vietnamese delegation arrived in Phnom Penh Friday for a week-long friendship visit. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1100 GMT 6 Nov 86 BK] /12232

CSO: 4200/114

SRV DELEGATE SPEAKS AT UN INFORMATION DEBATE

OW090831 Hanoi VNA in English 0725 GMT 9 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA 9 November--During the past 10 years, developing countries, especially the non-aligned countries, with their joint and concerted efforts, have carried out a tireless struggle for the establishment of a new international information and communication order, said Ambassador Bui Xuan Nhat, acting head of the Vietnam permanent mission to the United Nations, at a UN debate last Thursday on international information.

The ambassador said:

"Awakened to the unjust nature of the existing outmoded world information and communication order, the nonaligned countries, out of their wish and determination to change, gave birth 10 years ago to the concept of a new world information and communication order on the basis of the free and balance flow of information... we remain of the view that measures must be taken to accelerate the process of establishing a new world information and communication order, in which the task of assisting the developing countries to strengthen their communication and information infrastructure assumes special importance. [quotation marks as received] Ambassador Bui Xuan Nhat praised UNESCO's considerable contributions to strengthening the international cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture and information over the past 40 years, he said:

"On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of UNESCO, we express our complete approval of the recommendation, submitted by the delegation of the People's Republic of Mongolia, saying that the UN General Assembly should reaffirm its full support to the efforts UNESCO has been exerting in the field of information, and the Department of Public Information should pay particular attention to this event and make better use of this information, and make better use of that anniversary for the dissemination of information on the establishment of a new world information and communication order."

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CSO: 4200/115

UN ENVOY SUPPORTS AFGHAN PROPOSALS FOR DIALOGUE

OW071854 Hanoi VNA in English 1532 GMT 7 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA 7 November--Vietnam fully supports practical proposals made by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan relating to dialogue with its neighbours and other concerned issues.

In a recent UN debate Ambassador Bui Xuan Nhat highlighted the recent pull-out of six Soviet regiments from Afghanistan as an expression of good will of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan aimed at reaching a political solution to the Afghan issue.

The acting head of Vietnam's permanent mission to the UN said that the debate in the general assembly on the so-called "situation in Afghanistan" was a "futile exercise and it only benefits the political manoeuvre of certain countries. Realities have been distorted, good will has been misused. We should not allow it to happen again. Draft Resolution A/41/112 selectively referred to only one aspect of the issue while ignoring the others which my delegation considers as the core of the matter, namely the cessation of the undeclared war and all acts of outside intervention in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. As a biased and one-sided draft, it won't help but rather harm the negotiated process, it won't encourage flexibility but rather intransigence."

The Vietnamese ambassador concluded by saying. "It is high time that the General Assembly adopted a new approach so as to contribute positively to the process of dialogue aimed at defusing tension in the region and concluding agreements on a political solution to the situation, in the interest of peace, stability and friendship between peoples in the region and the world over."

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CSO: 4200/115

NHAN DAN COMMENTS ON THAI ROLE IN CAMBODIA

OW090913 Hanoi VNA in English 0719 GMT 9 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA 9 November--In a commentary today NHAN DAN urges the Thai authorities to show positive attitude toward the settlement of the Kampuchean issue and respond to legitimate demands of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Recalling Thai troops' land-grabbing attacks on Hill 537 inside Kampuchean territory on 15 October the paper says:

"This new invasion has further aggravated the situation along Thai-Kampuchea border and in the region as a whole. To cover up their criminal acts, the Thai authorities have made public a map compiled by the U.S. Army at its discretion during the Vietnam War which has long been considered invalid.

"Thailand's occupation of Kampuchea's Hill 537 is a gross violation of international laws and the UN Charter. Besides backing the genocidal Pol Pot clique by providing them sanctuaries in Thailand's territory to oppose the revival of the Kampuchean people, the Thai rulers have blatantly infringed upon the national independence and sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kampuchea, destabilizing the situation in the region, and running counter to the trend of dialogue now prevailing in Southeast Asia and elsewhere in the world."

The paper goes on:

"In face of such a blatant act of aggression, the people's Republic of Kampuchea firmly urges the Thai authorities to withdraw their troops from the occupied hill. To show its goodwill, the PRK Government demands that Bangkok stop its interference in the internal affairs of Kampuchea and embark on negotiations with the PRK side at any place and any time to solve problems relating to the two countries aimed at clearly defining the border delimitation and making border areas a region of stability, friendship and peace.

"The Vietnamese people fully support the Kampuchean people's legitimate right to self-defence and their efforts to safeguard their national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. We acclaim the PRK's goodwill attitude and its preparedness to negotiate with Thailand to solve all of their differences."

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CSO: 4200/115

PAPER HAILS PROPOSAL FOR NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN EUROPE

OW100951 Hanoi VNA in English 0728 GMT 10 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA 10 November--"The Vietnamese people [words indistinct] and fully support the new initiative jointly advanced by the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) and the German Social Democratic Party (SDP) for establishing a nuclear-free corridor in central Europe," says the paper NHAN DAN in a commentary today.

The paper remarks:

"Together with the proposal put forth by the two parties in August, 1985 for making central Europe a zone free from the chemical weapons, this new initiative is of great importance.

"Should these initiatives be realized the danger of war breaking out from the German territory would be diverted and the (?tension) at the biggest nuclear ammunition depot in Europe and along the demarcation line between the Warsaw and NATO pacts, lessened markedly. This thereby will increase mutual confidence, averting the danger of war in Europe, and contribution [as received] to preserving peace and life on our planet."

"The Vietnamese people welcome the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the German Democratic Republic--positive factor for peace and security in Europe--for their tireless efforts and praiseworthy contribution to the common struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism in Europe and elsewhere the world over," says the paper in conclusion.

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CSO: 4200/115

SRV-USSR COOPERATION IN OIL EXTRACTION REPORTED

OW050801 Hanoi VNA in English 0707 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA, 5 November--Oil extraction on an industrial scale was conducted for the first time on 26 June 1986 in the Bach Ho [White Tiger] area, about 100 miles off the coast of Vung Tau, named Cape Saint Jacques under the French rule, after 2 years of intensive work.

In a recent interview with the daily NHAN DAN, Nguyen Ngoc Cu, deputy director-general of the joint Vietnamese-Soviet oil venture, said: "two oil rigs, each capable of sinking 16 wells, have been in full operation in the region. Work is making headway. Within every 6 months, a new oil derrick can be assembled and put into commission."

He said the installation of an oil pipe system is being conducted alongside the construction of an on-shore petrochemical works.

He said the program for oil and natural gas exploration and extraction on southern Vietnam's continental shelf for the 1986-90 period had been adopted at a conference of the joint venture council in Moscow recently.

In 1987, the joint Vietnamese-Soviet oil venture (Vietsovpetro) will increase its output by 7 times over this year by 1990, its output is expected to increase by 60 times.

In another interview with Nhan Dan, A.M. Funtov, director of the sea work section of Vietsovpetro, said: "With the devoted assistance of Soviet engineers and workers, Vietnamese oilmen have matured very quickly. They are doing their work well. The third oil rig is being installed by Vietnamese workers themselves. Before long, it will be operational."

Asked about the prospects for the Bach Ho oil area, the Soviet expert said that with its considerable deposit, Bach Ho will be tapped to full capacity as from 1988.

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CSO: 4200/115

CPV CC GREETS ALBANIAN LABOR PARTY ANNIVERSARY

OW071852 Hanoi VNA in English 1558 GMT 7 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA 7 November--The coming into being of the Albanian Party of Labour (APL) 45 years ago was an event of great significance marking an important turning point in the history of development and in the political life of Albania.

This comes in a message of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee greeting the 45th Anniversary of the Albanian Party.

The message recalls that under the leadership of the APL, formerly headed by Enver Hoxha and now by Ramiz Alia, the Albanian people carried out a heroic struggle to liberate their country from the Italian and German Fascists. The working class and the people of Albania, bridging over hardships and difficulties, have turned their once feudal and backward country into a socialist one.

After praising Albania's substantial achievements in industry, agriculture and culture, the message notes that the brilliant achievements recorded by the Albanian Party of Labour, the vanguard of the Albanian working class, which party led the Albanian revolution to success, bringing about a happy life for the entire people.

"The party and people of Vietnam," the message says, "rejoice at the successes obtained by the APL and the fraternal Albanian people. We are convinced that the 45th APL anniversary and the success of the 9th APL Congress will be a source of strength and great encouragement to the working class and people of Albania to continue advancing, to still greater success in consolidating and developing the gains they have achieved in building socialism in Albania."

The message concludes by wishing for the constant development of the friendship, militant solidarity and fraternal cooperation based on Marxism-Leninism and the proletarian internationalism between the two parties and peoples.

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CSO: 4200/115

TRUONG CHINH MESSAGE GREETS NICARAGUAN ANNIVERSARY

0W081847 Hanoi VNA in English 1451 GMT 8 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA 8 November--Vietnam today reiterates its unswerving militant solidarity with the fraternal people of Nicaragua in their national reconstruction and defence.

This came in a message of Truong Chinh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and president of the State Council, to Daniel Ortega and other Nicaraguan leaders, greeting the 25th anniversary of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and the 50th birth anniversary of its late founder Carlos Fonseca.

The message recalls that over the past 25 years, bringing into full play the heroic and indomitable tradition, the Nicaraguan people have under the clear-sighted leadership of the FSLN, carried out a heroic struggle against imperialism and dictatorship.

They have gained great achievements in all fields, making the dream of Augusto Cesar Sandino and Carlos Fonseca and other Nicaraguan revolutionaries come true, namely building a new Nicaragua in which the people are the real masters of the country and of their own destiny.

It notes that after the successful Cuban revolution, the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution has further foiled the geo-politics imposed by the U.S. imperialists upon the Latin America Caribbean nations for centuries to maintain their rule and exploitation.

After denouncing the recent U.S. criminal acts against Nicaragua, the message stresses that these acts have been defeated and will completely be defeated.

"We are fully convinced that with the heroic and glorious tradition of revolution, with the clear-sighted leadership of the FSLN and the wholehearted support of the progressive mankind, the Nicaraguans will surely overcome all difficulties and trials and defeat all wicked schemes of U.S. imperialism and other reactionary forces, successfully defending their beloved country and building a new society," the message says.

It wished the militant solidarity and fraternal friendship between the two parties, states and peoples would further consolidate and develop.

CPV CC GREETS GUINEA BISSAU PARTY CONGRESS

OW091615 Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 9 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA 9 November--The Vietnamese people follow with deep sympathy the revolutionary cause of the people of Guinea Bissau and wish them ever greater successes in national construction and defence.

This comes from a message of greetings addressed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam to the Fourth Congress of the African Party for Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC).

The message, dated 8 November, says:

"Over the past years, under the PAIGC leadership the people of Guinea Bissau have brought into full play the tradition of heroic struggle and industrious labour, overcoming many difficulties and trials, and implementing the resolutions adopted by the first extraordinary PAIGC Congress in 1981. They have made important achievements in national construction and defence, thus actively contributing to the common struggle of the people in Africa and the world as a whole against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, Zionism, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

"The Vietnamese people are convinced that, in the light of the resolutions of the Fourth PAIGC Congress, the people of Guinea Bissau will achieve still greater successes in national building and defence."

The message wishes the friendship and militant solidarity between the two peoples further consolidation and development, and the congress brilliant success.

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CSO: 4200/115

CPV CC GREETS SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS

OW071851 Hanoi VNA in English 1558 GMT 7 Nov 86

[Text] Hanoi VNA, 1 November--The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam today extended greetings to the 28th Congress of the Swedish Workers' Communist Party (APK).

The message notes that the APK, together with other progressive and peace forces in Sweden, has over the past years conducted a stubborn struggle against the U.S.-led international reactionary forces' arms race policy and their interference into other countries' internal affairs, and for respecting the independence and sovereignty of all nations and responding to peace initiatives proposed by the Soviet Union and other peace-loving nations, including the one of the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme.

"The APK also takes the lead in the struggle for defending the Swedish working people's civil and democratic rights against capitalist monopoly," the message adds. It continues: "The CPV highly values the active contributions of the APK, and fully supports its just struggle, and is convinced that in the light of the 28th Congress resolutions the APK will record still greater achievements."

The message expresses sincere gratitude to the APK and the Swedish people for their heartfelt support to the Vietnamese people's Socialist construction and national defence, and wishes the solidarity and friendship between the two parties and peoples further consolidation and development.

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END